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## The BG News April 2, 2007

Bowling Green State University

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**Monday**

April 2, 2007

Volume 101, Issue 128  
WWW.BGNEWS.COM

## Panel discussion revolves around female artists

Program considers women's roles and contributions in the world of art | **Page 3**

## Students to pay for off-campus mischief

UW-Milwaukee is cracking down on recent misbehavior | **Page 3**

## Three people wounded in L.A. shooting

A party following the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards is interrupted by gunfire | **Page 8**

## Bluffton team honors players

The team returns to the baseball diamond after last month's bus tragedy | **Page 9**

## BG baseball 1-2 over weekend

The Falcons struggle to pull out a win over Western Michigan, get first victory in MAC play | **Page 9**

## Teen drivers to face new road restrictions

A state law that limits the number of passengers in teen vehicles will take effect Friday | **Page 16**

## Strickland signs transportation budget

The governor passes the first piece of legislation, vetoes a provision for charter schools | **Page 15**

Do you follow American Idol?



**AMANDA SIPES**, Sophomore, Psychology

"No, I think there's just been too many seasons. I watched the first two." | **Page 4**

**TODAY**  
Partly Cloudy/Windy  
High: 66, Low: 47

**TOMORROW**  
Scattered T-Storms/  
Wind  
High: 75, Low: 37

# Complaints prompt debate

## GSS discusses future roles of graduate students

By Tim Sampson  
Reporter

The Graduate Student Senate was up in arms at its most recent meeting over possible changes to the role of graduate students in the classroom and a proposed amendment to the University's anti-discrimination policies.

On Friday, members of the GSS voiced their opinions on possible changes being discussed in the College of Arts and Sciences to limit the role of Master's students in teaching undergraduate classes. The Senate also postponed a vote on a bill supporting the addition of

gender identity and expression to the University's equal opportunity, equal education and anti-harassment policies.

Following complaints from undergraduate students and their parents about the poor quality of some graduate student instructors in undergraduate classes, the College of Arts and Sciences has formed a committee to investigate these complaints and look for possible solutions.

According to Luke Nichter, GSS vice president and member of the committee, proposed solutions have ranged from changing the way Master's students are trained to pro-

hibiting them from teaching undergraduate courses all together.

GSS members expressed vehement opposition to an outright elimination of Master's students from the classroom, arguing that many graduate students depend on teaching assistant positions to afford education cost and prepare them for careers in academia.

"It has become much more competitive to get into doctoral programs and so they need that teaching experience," said Steve Swanson, GSS representative-at-large. "That experience gives them a leg up."

In addition, prohibiting Master's students from teaching could dra-

matically impact the budgets of academic departments. According to Nichter, many departments would be hard-pressed to afford new instructors to take over the classes currently taught by graduate students.

"Most departments are heavily dependent on grad students for teaching," Nichter said. "This is the absolute cheapest form of labor on campus."

Members of GSS also showed skepticism of the student complaints that have brought about this discussion.

"It's probably happening less than the college feels that it's happening,"

Swanson said.

"I think the vast majority of complaints are coming from students coming into their freshman and sophomore years who aren't fully prepared for the level of work they're going to have to put in," he said.

GSS members plan on meeting with their constituents to gather information and opinions in order to work toward a possible solution. According to Swanson, they are trying not to be left out of the decision-making process.

"We want to be involved in the decisions being made that will affect

See **GSS** | Page 2

# Governor urges higher education

## Strickland sets goals for enrollment, efficiency

By Molly McCabe  
Reporter

Higher education is at the top of the list of concerns for Ohio's new governor.

Gov. Ted Strickland said education is important to the future of Ohio's economic growth.

In Strickland's State of the State address earlier this month, he made clear he wants to use higher education to better Ohio's economy.

Since 1996, Ohio's average yearly tuition increase has been 9 percent, which is 47 percent higher than the national average for public institutions.

One of Strickland's goals is to encourage more people to aspire to and complete college, along with staying in Ohio to build and rebuild the state. The second goal is to find efficiencies within universities and to control tuition.

Several groups around the state are working to meet similar goals.

The Ohio College Access Network is an organization that is built around the idea that no young person in Ohio should be deprived of a college education. This program is an attempt to close the gap for students who are caught in the financial range where they cannot receive financial aid, but the family does not have enough money to help pay for the education.

Know How 2 Go is another program created to help encourage young people to attend college. The group's primary goal is to communicate with young students, from junior high and up, the importance of planning for college.

With these programs and the help of the state, Strickland said he would like to see an increase of more than 230,000 students graduate from college during the next decade.

See **EDUCATION** | Page 2



ILLUSTRATION BY MARTEL WHITE | THE BG NEWS

# Red Cross stresses need for blood

By Holly Abrams  
Editor-in-Chief

With frequent blood shortages every year, the push for giving blood is especially apparent on campus and in the community.

And currently there is critical need for blood donations, specifically type O negative, according to Linda Hartman, senior donor recruitment representative for the American Red Cross Blood Services for the Western Lake Erie Region.

Reasons for shortages depend on the season. People often do not give in the winter when the weather is bad or they are ill, other times shortages occur during warm weather when people are active outdoors and not inside donating, Hartman said.

Even with the shortages, blood donation needs to remain persistent. The Western Lake Erie Region, which serves 11 counties in northwest Ohio and 23 area hospitals, needs 300 pints per day to maintain a sufficient blood supply, according to Hartman. Ideally the agency keeps a three-day supply of blood on the shelf — amount-

ing to about 900 pints.

"People don't realize that," Hartman said.

About 20 percent of the blood supply in stock at any given time comes from high school and college drives, Hartman said. This can lead to shortages when students are on break from classes, such as for spring break, and can lead to the American Red Cross making an emergency appeal for donations.

This is only announced when supplies are extremely low, Hartman said. If the supply is in an emergency state and not enough pints are in stock, the agency may collect blood from other area Red Cross markets. In worst cases, surgeries may even be postponed because of not enough supplies, Hartman said.

### Maintaining Supplies

To keep supplies intact, drives are scheduled about five times a year on campus, taking into account the 56 day wait requirement in between blood donations, Hartman said. However, with drives regularly both on and off-campus, there's always a chance to give.

## BG RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**WHEN:** April 2, 4, 5

**WHERE:** Olscamp 101 A and B

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Free pint of Toft's Ice Cream with donation

"There's opportunity almost every single month," Hartman said. "It helps people in BG who want to give every 56 days."

The next campus drive starts this week. In recent years the BG Red Cross Club has been helping sponsor and promote campus drives.

"They're becoming more of an active role," Hartman said. "We're partnering with the Red Cross Club to get the word out there."

The club started four years ago by students who wanted to help relief efforts for the 2004 tsunami that hit Asia, said Amber Daniels, club president.

Daniels, who has been involved with the organization for two years, said 20 to 25 students are active members.

See **DRIVE** | Page 2

# Philosophy department loses faculty members

By Tim Sampson  
Reporter

The philosophy department will see many changes next year as it adapts to the impending loss of more than a quarter of its tenured and tenure-track faculty members.

With registration for next fall already underway, it was announced this month that four philosophy professors who were scheduled to teach classes next fall will be leaving at the beginning of next year.

Two of the professors, David Shoemaker and Steven Wall, will be leaving for a year on fellowships, while two others, Janice Dowell and her husband, department chair David Sobel, will be leaving permanently to teach at the University of Nebraska.

Although losing so many professors at once is rare, finding out about it after classes have already been scheduled is not.

"The timing was actually fairly typical for this sort of thing, when you're talking about someone getting hired away," Sobel said.

The department is now in the midst of hiring two new permanent faculty members to replace Sobel and Dowell, in addition to finding several temporary instructors to fill in for Shoemaker and Wall, who will each be working on research fellowships next year at the Murphy Institute at Tulane University in New Orleans.

One new faculty member, Christen Coons, has already been hired for next year.

"We're certainly going to try our hardest to hire new faculty to cover the courses that are already scheduled and that students have already signed up for," Sobel said. "That way students aren't forced to scramble to find some other course."

An interim department

See **FACULTY** | Page 6



## POLICE BLOTTER

### FRIDAY

Ronald Francis Petro, 57, of Toledo, arrested for tampering with records, driving under suspension, a failure to reinstate, failure to use a turn signal and expired registration on Ash Street. He was taken to the Wood County Justice Center without bond.

**3:07 p.m.**  
Pedestrian/vehicle accident reported on Dierly and Marville avenues.

**3:57 p.m.**  
Angela Marie Widmer, 26, of Bowling Green, arrested for disorderly conduct at Wal-Mart on West Gypsy Lane Road. According to police reports, she attempted to steal DVDs from the store and once she got to her car, she urinated in the lot.

**3:50 p.m.**  
South Main Street resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

**10:55 p.m.**  
John E. Butcher, Jr., 20, of Avon Lake, Ohio, arrested for underage consumption of alcohol in an East Napoleon Road apartment complex. Chad A. Cambria, 21, of Bowling Green, arrested for providing a place for underage consumption.

**11:43 p.m.**  
Courtney L. Kromer, 19, of Sandusky, Ohio, arrested for underage possession of alcohol in an East Napoleon Road parking lot.

### SATURDAY

**1:11 a.m.**  
Michael L. Smith, 23, of Fostonia, Ohio, arrested for disorderly conduct while intoxicated at Uptown/Downtown Sports Bar & Deli on North Main Street.

**1:16 a.m.**  
Jared T. Dickman, 21, of Fremont, Ohio, arrested for disorderly conduct in Lot 1.

**1:45 a.m.**  
Robert T. Lavin, 21, of Rocky River, Ohio, issued a civil citation for public urination on North Main Street.

**1:53 a.m.**  
Wesley J. Striner, 20, of Bowling Green, arrested for underage

under the influence on South Grove Street.  
**2:12 a.m.**  
Mark Daniel Staycheff, 18, Munroe Falls, Ohio, arrested for public urination and underage under the influence on West Court Street.

**2:33 a.m.**  
Michael R. Jagodzinski, 24, of Perrysburg, Ohio, issued a civil citation for public urination in Lot 1.

**2:39 a.m.**  
Dana Michael Zook, 21, of Quincy, Ohio, cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence and failure to follow marked lanes on South College Drive.

**2:41 a.m.**  
Thomas B. Kluding, 23, of Sandusky, Ohio, issued a civil citation for public urination in a North Main Street parking lot.

**3:13 a.m.**  
Unknown person reported to have smashed out the back window of a Burnwood Drive home, causing \$200 in damage.

**12:07 p.m.**  
Vehicle reported stolen from a Campbell Hill Road parking lot.

**1:42 p.m.**  
Vehicle parked in an East Merry Avenue parking lot reported damaged after an unknown person threw an abandoned bike on it, causing \$700 damage to the hood and windshield.

**4:03 p.m.**  
South Enterprise Street resident called to report someone threw a plastic light cover onto her car, causing \$100 damage.

**5:29 p.m.**  
Juvenile arrested for disorderly conduct at a South Summit Street home after she held a knife to her throat during an argument with her mother.

**8:10 p.m.**  
Residents at The Enclave on East Napoleon Road reported returning home to find their front door kicked in, causing \$100 in damage. Nothing appeared to be taken or disturbed.

**9:13 p.m.**  
Kildare Lane resident called to report her juvenile daughter had run away from home.

**ONLINE:** Read more of the blotter on our Web site.  
[|bgnews.com](http://bgnews.com)

## DRIVE

From Page 1

Other schools, such as The University of Toledo, have modeled similar clubs off of BG's, Daniels said.

"The goal is to keep people more aware of things that are going on," she said. "For people to understand that things are going on in the world that are not happening here and to make people aware how easily you can help others."

**Saving a Life**  
For junior Akeela Welch, giving blood is something that hits home. Welch was in a bike accident at age 12 that caused her kidneys internal bleeding. A donor's blood saved her life.

"It makes me feel very privileged to have been a product of someone's donation," Welch said. "Donation is something money could not have done. It feels good to know I could benefit from someone's caring."

Welch, a member of the Red Cross Club, encourages others to be potential lifesavers.

"That is something that they could give themselves and give unselfishly," Welch said.

Contrary to what some think, after giving blood, the donation usually does not sit for weeks or months.

"Somebody tomorrow could benefit from blood you give today," Welch said.

**The Giving Process**  
When donors give they are asked 56 questions that deal with their history, basic contact information and health-related issues.

"We want to make sure the blood we are receiving is iron-enriched and we don't want to wear you down," Hartman said.

And even with the background questionnaire, all blood donations are lab tested. If results come back positive, for STDs for example, a letter is sent to the donor to notify them,

Hartman said.

"It does give somebody a mini physical," she said.

Hartman recommends donors eat a good meal and drink a lot of water for several days leading up to the drive. Before donating, people should avoid coffee and eat iron-enriched or iron-retaining foods such as broccoli, high-iron content cereals and beef.

One pint of blood is taken during a typical donation, which is then separated into three different blood products. Some may not realize that one pint can save up to three lives.

"None of it really goes to waste and there's such a shortage," Daniels said.

Platelets are used for cancer patients, and plasma helps burn victims.

Although 300 pints per day is the agency's goal, 400 to 500 donors are needed to achieve that goal. Many donors are deferred initially through the questionnaire prior to giving blood. Reasons for deferral can include low iron, illness or gay men who have had sex with other men, for example.

**Giving Misconceptions**  
But the top reasons why people choose not to donate revolve around the actual process, Hartman said. Many worry about the pain from the needle used to extract the blood, but the actual "pinch" lasts only about three seconds.

"Besides the initial poke it's not painful at all," Welch said.

In addition, many think the actual blood donation takes an hour alone. But it only lasts about 10 minutes, with the remaining donation time, about an hour total, being paperwork and resting.

"Having a needle in your arm for ten minutes is nothing compared to what cancer patients go through," Hartman said. "An hour of my time could give a child a lifetime of memories."

Other donors agree that giv-

## WHO CAN GIVE?

Basic requirements for blood donation regulated by the Federal Drug Administration.

- Age: 17
- Weight: 110 lbs.
- May only donate once each 56-day period
- Travel restrictions for malaria and mad cow disease may apply
- Donors should be in good health

Source: The American Red Cross

## STEP BY STEP:

The donation process...

- 1) Undergo a mini-physical, checking temperature, iron level
- 2) Answer 56 questions (15-20 minutes)
- 3) Donation process (7-10 minutes)
- 4) Sit and relax (15 minutes)
- Total: about one hour

## FACTS, RECORDS:

- The highest recorded donations kept by the Wood County American Red Cross office for campus drives was 590 pints collected during the 2000 Blood Bowl against the University of Toledo.
- During the last campus blood drive, 494 donors came but only 369 donations were collected during the five-day span. This fell 28 below the drive goal of 397 pints.
- For the next blood drive, in April, a goal of 123 pints per day has been set, with volunteers hoping for 150 to 160 donors showing up each day.

Source: Linda Hartman, Blood Donor Representative for Wood County

ing blood is worth the small time commitment.

"Blood is a really simple way to save people's lives," Daniels said. "To me, life is very precious. It's just unreal to me that everybody couldn't have two hours to save a life."

**Editor's Note:** The BG Red Cross Club meets Wednesdays at 9:15 p.m. in 114 BA. Attend a meeting or e-mail [BGSRUCross@gmail.com](mailto:BGSRUCross@gmail.com) to get involved.

## EDUCATION

From Page 1

"This is an ambitious but achievable goal," Strickland said as he addressed University students last Wednesday. "This is not a final solution, but a step in the right direction."

Beginning July 1, 2007, higher education would receive a 5 percent increase from State Share of Instruction, but Ohio's 14 four-year public universities would have to agree to hold to a 0 percent increase in tuition.

The next year, SSI will give higher education a 2 percent increase in exchange for agreeing not to raise tuition more than 3 percent.

The Inter-University Council is comprised of all 14 of the

four-year public universities in Ohio. The council, led by BGSU President Sidney Ribeau, is working to speak as one voice for public higher education.

Larry Weiss, associate vice president of University Relations and Governmental Affairs, also serves on the IUC and said it is appreciative of Strickland's proposal.

"The IUC supports two things. First, it acknowledges the vital role of the economy of the state, and second, creating a compact between the state and higher education," Weiss said.

Members of IUC are trying to work with the governor to make the compact workable for students.

"We are trying to work through the devil that's in the details," Weiss said.

## GSS

From Page 1

a large percentage of our graduate students," he said.

In addition to going over these proposed changes, the GSS also debated a bill that advocates amending the University's anti-discrimination policies to include specific protection against discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

The Senate chose to postpone a vote on the bill so as to allow further debate.

"I felt like we were rushing to pass the bill in order to get out of here quickly," said GSS member Scott Anderson who moved to have the vote postponed.

"I'm not sure if I'm for or against it yet. I just think there needs to be more discussion," Anderson said.

The debate over the bill focused mainly on the ambiguities in defining the difference between sex, gender, gender identity and gender expression.

Some members felt that adding new language to University policies was unnecessary by arguing that discrimination against transgender individuals is already prohibited by protections against sex discrimination.

But members of Transcendence, a campus organization for transgender individuals, feel the new language is needed.

Marlene Bomer, the community liaison for Transcendence, said discrimination against transgender people on campus does occur and needs to be stopped.

"We're fighting for our equal rights and our right not to be discriminated against," Bomer said at Friday's meeting.

A similar bill sponsored by Transcendence has already been approved by USG. Whether or not a change is made to the University's policies will ultimately be up to the Board of Trustees.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Parker Street murder suspect still at large

A longtime Bowling Green resident who police believe shot and killed two people at a Parker Street home early Thursday morning is still at large.

On Thursday, a warrant was issued for 34-year-old Craig Daniels Jr.'s arrest, charging him with two counts of aggravated murder.

On Friday afternoon, Stark County sheriffs found Daniels' blue pickup truck just minutes away from his mother's Lewisburg, Ohio, home, leading officials to believe he may be in that area.

However, no friends or family members in the area have reported having any contact with the suspect, Bowling Green Police Lt. Tony Hetrick said.

Hetrick said Friday police issued an "all points bulletin" and officers across the region were working together to find Daniels.

The suspect is considered armed and dangerous, Hetrick said.

Anyone with information about Daniels or his whereabouts is encouraged to call Bowling Green police at (419)352-2571.

### USG holds online elections this week

Online voting begins today at 8 a.m. for the Undergraduate Student Government president and vice president. Students can vote by visiting the University's homepage and clicking the USG 2007 online election link. Students will need to provide their name and PO number to participate. Voting ends at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

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Traveling for Easter? See the...

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## GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**American Red Cross  
Blood Drive**  
101 Olscamp

12 - 2 p.m.

**All Around The World:  
Global Connection Raffle  
Tickets**  
**Sponsored by the  
International Careers  
Network**  
Union

6 - 8 p.m.

**How 2: Bar Basics and  
Mixology**  
201 Union

7 - 8 p.m.

**March Madness Bracket  
Battle**  
Rodgers

7 - 9 p.m.

**Fundraiser: All Around  
The World: ICN's Global  
Connection**  
**Sponsored by  
International Careers****Network**  
208 Union

## Panel discusses women in art

By Kyle Reynolds  
Reporter

Art textbooks used to neglect the accomplishments of female artists. Many would not include their work or would display the work of very few, like Georgia O'Keefe.

The role of women in art has changed though, and now women are prominent in the world of art.

In celebration of Women's History Month, a panel discussion titled "Living and Sustaining Life as a Woman Artist" was held on Friday with seven female artists as panelists and moderated by Jacqui Nathan, art gallery director.

The panel featured a diverse group of women, ranging from mothers to undergraduate students to professors. Some come from rural backgrounds and others more industrialized ones, but they're all female artists making a living off their art.

They discussed everything from the challenges of being a female artist to feminism.

The feminist movement helped women gain more rights, but many female artists are hesitant to embrace the term feminist because the word has devel-

**"When I first came here ... there was only one [female professor] in art education and one in studio art ... it was very much a good ol' boy's network"**

Jacqui Nathan | Art Gallery Director

oped a negative connotation.

"It seems like young female artists want to distance themselves from feminism," Nathan said.

The field of art has been a field that has been traditionally male-dominated, but has more recently been impacted greatly by the work of female artists.

"When I first came here 21 years ago there was only one [female professor] in art education and one in studio art ... it was very much a good ol' boy's network," Nathan said.

The panel discussed the lack of female artists in textbooks when some of them were in school and not being educated

about women's contributions to the field.

Lynn Whitney, associate professor of art, believes her art is heavily influenced by the people who taught her — men.

"I feel my aesthetic is very male because I was only taught by men," Whitney said.

The difficulty balancing life as a female and life as an artist was discussed, including the balancing a family, work and art.

When Janet Ballweg, professor of art, came to Bowling Green she found it hard to find time to both raise her son and work, but working instead of staying home with the kids was not readily accepted at the time.

"I felt like I had to hide the fact that I had a son," Ballweg said. "You couldn't divide up being a mother and an artist because you had to show that you were focused on your family or your work, not both."

Heather Elliott-Famularo, associate professor of art, knows first-hand how hard it is to balance all her roles but she is happy because she loves what she does.

"I wouldn't trade anything I have for anything," Elliott-Famularo said. "I'm a mother, teacher and an artist."



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

## Boarding in Bowling Green

SKILLS: Ron Tolbert, senior, enjoys his Sunday doing tricks on his skateboard.

## Off campus conduct at UW to be scrutinized

By Megan Twohey  
MCT

As president of a neighborhood association near the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Kay Baldwin has heard a litany of complaints about student behavior off campus.

One resident had to get stitches after intoxicated students threw pieces of his picket fence at him. An elderly couple was accosted with beer bottles when they asked students to stop urinating on their lawn.

And then there are the parties. "Weekend after weekend, the students get cited for disorderly conduct and noise vio-

lations, but they never stop," Baldwin said.

For years, Baldwin and a small army of residents and local officials have lobbied the UW System to discipline students for their off-campus misconduct, arguing that citations and other legal ramifications are not enough.

They may finally get their way. In December, the UW System quietly formed a committee to recommend ways to expand the reach of its student conduct code.

A growing number of colleges and universities have begun sanctioning students for off-campus behavior ranging from

sexual assault to noise violations. The University of Colorado-Boulder suspends students for a semester if they receive two citations for underage drinking, on campus or off.

"A lot of college and universities are moving in this direction," said Jim Hill, dean of students at UW-Milwaukee and a member of the Chapter UWS 17 and 18 Review Committee, named after the codes under review. "The University of Wisconsin System wants to move that way, too."

Under the UW System's code, discipline is reserved almost entirely for on-campus misconduct.

Universities can take action

against students who commit assaults and property damage off-campus if the victims are other university students or employees. But with other off-campus incidents, their hands are tied.

Several years ago, Hill said, UW-Milwaukee disciplined students who dragged a female student into the bushes and tried to sexually assault her. But when people outside the university have complained about being attacked by a student, the university has encouraged them to go to the police. Even if the student is convicted in court, the university has no grounds to act.

## USG OPEN FORUM

"How GREEN is Bowling Green?"

USG's Internal Affairs Committee will be breaking down tuition and what percent of your tuition goes where.

Also, USG's Organization Liaison Committee we will be discussing what sorts of policies BG already has in place to promote energy efficiency, conservation and recycling.

When: Monday, April 2, 2007

Time: 7:30-9 p.m.

Where: 308 BTSU

For more information, e-mail [usg@bgsu.edu](mailto:usg@bgsu.edu)QDOBA  
BRACKETVILLE TOURNAMENT!Burrito Eating Contest Final  
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Seniors	March 27
Juniors	April 3
Sophomores	April 10
Freshmen	April 16
Guest Students	April 20

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Business Administration	371 Business Administration Building	372-2747
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# OPINION

"It's intended as a meditation on the Holy Week." — Matthew Semler, the artistic director of a Manhattan gallery that canceled its showing of a life-size chocolate sculpture depicting a naked Jesus Christ, from Time.com.

Monday, April 2, 2007 4

## PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Do you follow 'American Idol'?



"Yes, because I sang in high school and junior high and it's just entertaining."  
**STEPHANIE BLUE,**  
Freshman, Interior Design



"No, I think it's a bad show."  
**PATRICK DUCEY,**  
Sophomore, Psychology



"No, I just don't have time to watch it."  
**KARMEN JONES,**  
Freshman, Early Childhood Education



"No, because it has become too commercial."  
**JOHN PEACE,**  
Sophomore, Sports Marketing

**VISIT US AT BGNEWS.COM**  
Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.

## Progress is hindered by politics



**BRENDAN KEEP**  
COLUMNIST

Politics, politics, politics. The Iraq War seems to be more important as a political battleground than as an actual combat zone.

While lately there has been difficulty getting real weapons and equipment to troops in Iraq, there has been no shortage of arms in the war of words between the Capitol and the White House.

I'm talking about the recent budget dispute between Democratic Congressional leaders and President Bush. I wish that I could take the side of either the Democrats or the President, but neither is very reasonable.

For whatever reason, Democrats have struggled to show the American public that they are capable of leading the War on Terror.

Yes, Democrats did win big in the last elections, but that was as much due to people voting against a Republican Party tainted by scandals as to people actually being excited about Democrats.

Think for a minute about the stereotype of a Democrat. Soft on defense, raises taxes, spends money like there's no tomorrow. How did Congressional Democrats seek to defeat that stereotype in their first major spending bill? They raised taxes by eliminating the entirety of the tax cuts from the beginning of Bush's first term, including the marriage tax and extra child tax credit, both of which benefit primarily middle-to-low income families.

They tied funding for the war to a bill that includes \$74 million for "secure peanut storage." Yes, I really just said secure peanut storage. In addition, the bill includes millions of dollars of subsidies for spinach and beet farmers.

There is \$100 million for the cities of Denver and Minneapolis-St. Paul for security during the 2008 political conventions. If this upsets you, then you will be able to visit the Capitol and voice your concerns due to the \$3.5 million in the bill earmarked for guided tours of the place.

All of these "pet projects" have no place on a bill that is supposed to simply provide funding for the troops, but the item that makes it really political is the attachment of a timetable for withdrawal to the bill.

I am not going to argue for or against the idea of such a timetable, that point is irrelevant. The point is that the Democrats put the timetable in the spending bill so that the President has to choose to either provide no funding for

See **POLITICS** | Page 5

## Burgled In Jail



MARTEL WHITE | BG-NEWS ILLUSTRATOR

## Keeping Sanjaya means losing good idols



**MICHELLE DOMINICK**  
COLUMNIST

It's the sixth season of American Idol and the competition is changing rapidly.

Instead of supporting and voting for the best singers, many viewers are deciding to do just the opposite: vote for the worst.

As a fan of the show, I enjoy listening and watching good singers perform and advance each week toward becoming the next American Idol.

When exceptional singers like Stephanie Edwards leave the show before others who aren't as musically gifted, I become upset.

Are Americans idolizing individuals with little musical talent?

I decided to do some detective work to see why singers like Sanjaya Malakar and Haley

Scarnato were receiving more votes than, in my opinion, better singers like Stephanie Edwards and Sabrina Sloan.

My search led me to a Web site called: VoteForTheWorst.com.

According to the Web site, VoteForTheWorst.com started in 2004 to "support voting for contestants who the producers would hate to see win on American Idol."

The motive for their plot is to seek revenge on the producers of the show who during the initial auditions only let specific people advance to see Paula, Simon and Randy.

The Web site asserts that producers have rejected good singers to embrace some of the worst in order to make a more entertaining show for viewers.

Vote For The Worst (VFTW) asks viewers to work together and vote for the contestants the general public and producers are voting against.

Currently, the site has cho-

See **IDOL** | Page 5

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Debunkify tobacco, support alcohol use

I visited the Debunkify table and van they had set up last week under the Education Building Steps and was excited to see them come to campus.

My visit ended in disappointment, however, when I found them condoning another addictive drug while trying to stamp-out smokers.

After I signed the poster I was offered a can cozy (humm I wonder what you put in there) and a bottle-opener with the Debunkify logo on it.

Am I the only one that thought they were helping you get rid of a nicotine addiction by helping you with an alcohol addiction?

I just don't think that was the right thing to do.

— Jessica Ackerman, Senior, Environmental Studies, [jackerm@bgsu.edu](mailto:jackerm@bgsu.edu)

### Learning can happen in and out of school

Leave it to today's politically correct student to be offended by a remark made by Ted Nugent.

Chad Puterbaugh's opinion piece on March 30 was almost laughable.

Yes, a majority of students here at BGSU agree that a university education and a degree are important.

However, it seems rather pompous that a student so "enlightened" educationally is so closed minded to other means of obtaining knowledge.

Nugent's comment isn't a smack in the face, it's a fact.

I know many people, my father included — who are more educated than any college graduate I have encountered.

Life is a learning experience, and the world is a classroom. Nugent's educational experience is vastly different from ours and that was his choice.

Attending Bowling Green State University to earn a degree is the choice we have made. There is a difference between "common sense smart" and "book smart."

Hopefully students find a happy medium between the two before they graduate.

Unfortunately, most will rely only on their "book smarts," and that is truly frightening.

— Renee Daley, Junior, Early Childhood Education, [ardaley@bgsu.edu](mailto:ardaley@bgsu.edu)

### George Bush: America's worst employee

I won't say I've never agreed with anything George Bush has said.

There was that one time during the G8 summit in 2006 when he said, "See, the irony is that what they (Lebanon) need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this shit."

However, that was the first and last time that I've ever agreed with the man who calls himself president.

Truth is he hasn't acted like the President of The United States of America since 9/11 and his recent statements have

only reiterated this.

Last week the Senate passed a bill to pull out our brothers and sisters from the civil war occurring in Iraq.

This marked the first time in recent memory that Congress has actually listened to its' employers; the citizens of America.

However, our number one employee, George Bush, quickly stated that he will veto this bill.

He furthered his threat by stating, "Passing a bill they (Congress) know will never become law, the Democrats in Congress have only delayed the delivery of the vital funds and resources our troops need."

Apparently George forgot to read the part in the bill that provides \$122 billion dollars for that very cause.

He even had the balls to tell say that Congress needs to make a choice between wasting time and working with the White House to do the people's business. The people's business! How is he doing the people's business by defying what the people want?

By defying his employers, the citizens of America, defying Congress and refusing to look out for the best interest of our country; George Bush is knowingly committing an act of treason.

I urge everyone to contact their local congressman or congresswoman and demand that our employer finally listen to us.

If he refuses and goes through with his veto threat; then it just might be time to fire America's worst employee.

— Jeff Smith, Senior, Creative Writing, [jsmith@bgsu.edu](mailto:jsmith@bgsu.edu)

## 'Idol' rip-off unites Iraq, shames U.S. efforts



**JON BOSSCHER**  
COLUMNIST

Last Friday, Iraqi families crowded around their televisions, nervously awaiting the results of an election that would determine the fate of their beloved Shada Hassoun, the Iraqi contestant on Star Academy, the Arab version of American Idol.

In the northern city of Irbil where public gatherings are safe, thousands gathered around a massive TV screen to view the results.

In Baghdad, where the streets are deserted after nightfall, those with electricity gathered in living rooms to await the decision. Just before midnight, celebratory gunfire rang out across Iraq — no doubt mingling with the more malicious variety — as the show's host announced that Hassoun had bested the three other finalists.

Hassoun's victory achieved what four years of elections, U.S. occupation, and the execution of Saddam Hussein could not achieve. The results of the pan-Arab Star Academy have united Iraqis across the sectarian divides that now fuel the gruesome violence seen daily

throughout the country.

"We voted for Shada without asking if she were a Shiite or a Sunni," Hicham Mahmoud Alazami said on the Al-Arabiya website. "We voted for her just because she is an Iraqi."

In fact, Hassoun received over 7 million votes, more than any Iraqi politician in two national elections. "Sunnis and Shiites will unite with your victory," read one text message, sent by a viewer, which scrolled across the screen during a pre-show telecast on Iraq's al-Sharqiya satellite channel. "You are the one who unites all of Iraq, from North to South, from the Tigris to the Euphrates."

Hassoun, who has actually never been to Iraq, might seem an unlikely ambassador for the war-torn country. The 26-year-old singer was born in Morocco to an Iraqi father, through whom she claims her nationality; and a Moroccan mother. What is important to her fans though, is her deep love for her country. "Imagine how great her love would be if she lived here!" exclaimed Ahmed Kadhiim, a 32-year-old day laborer from Baghdad.

Yes, if only the Paris-educated, foreign-born fan of jet-skiing and Antonio Banderas could actually live in Iraq. Then, finally, national reconciliation would become a reality. At the moment Hassoun's sectarian

status is unknown so both Sunni and Shia have laid claim to her. If it is ever revealed she may want to start traveling with bodyguards.

Shada Hassoun has managed to do what endless security crackdowns and attempts at political cooperation have failed to do. After four years of bloodshed resulting in the deaths of over 3,000 Americans and untold thousands of Iraqis, Operation Iraqi Freedom has delivered to the country's war-weary residents their inalienable right to watch cheesy American Idol rip-offs on satellite TV.

Although some critics point out that Star Academy's Iraqi viewers are largely a captive audience as it is too dangerous to go outside, the satellite dishes, banned under Saddam Hussein, have been sprouting on almost every rooftop.

Unfortunately, with the distraction of Star Academy came pesky reminders of the deplorable conditions in Iraq as, during commercial breaks, the Iraqi satellite channel aired a government ad seeking to discourage sectarian cleansing. It featured an elderly woman in a black chador pleading with masked men not to evict her and her family from their home.

See the rest of Jon's column online at [www.bgnews.com](http://www.bgnews.com).

## THE BG NEWS

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

**GUEST COLUMNS** are longer pieces between 400 and 500 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. The maximum number of submissions for columns is two per month.

**POLICIES:** Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

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Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of **The BG News**.



# 'The Nuge' not the best choice

Ted Nugent motivating students to speak their minds.

I cannot think of a weirder idea or a more wasteful way for the College Republicans to waste even more of their budgeted money.

It would be like the College Democrats bringing Meat Loaf to discuss foreign trade agreements with China (which would be even more odd, considering Meat Loaf sang on Ted Nugent's Free For All album, but let us move on).

At first, the rumors here on campus were that the College Republicans had Ann Coulter lined up and ready to speak here at the University.

Whether scheduling conflicts, money problems or her plans to call presidential candidates faggots had anything to do with her non-arrival is beside the fact.

What is important is their selection of Ted Nugent as a replacement for Coulter.

I am no stranger to Ted Nugent myself. While growing up we were listening to "the Nuge" quite often because his cheeky lyrics often included the word "pussy" and the fact that he liked putting things into "a

ADAM BOWMAN | GUEST COLUMNIST

stranglehold."

As I have grown away from this mentality, I have not grasped why I should listen to a man who has made his money toting "Cat Scratch Fever" as a motivational speaker or a strong political activist.

What I have grasped is that he is what Americans seem to like: A man that shouts outrageous things to get people revved up and to cause controversy.

He often touches upon gun control, welfare, the borders, the troops, but what is it that he really is saying to us? It is one thing to wave the flag, but to just "tell it like it is" is that enough to change minds? What he offers to us is the idea that we can state our minds and no matter what that is, it might be correct.

He speaks with conviction and could care less what people feel about him, and this is his appeal to his demographic.

The point that I am hoping for people to see is to look

past all the flash and yelling and truly listen to what he is conveying.

It is not up to me to say if he is right or wrong, but please, do choose for yourself. What are his messages, what are his solutions? I can go onstage and yell outrageous things and get laughs, but if just the outrage is being conveyed then I am truly saying nothing at all.

If the College Republicans do feel that they have somehow failed with this speaker selection, then I hope they decide next time to go beyond the shock element and the media coverage elements.

They could also consider giving the thousands it takes to bring one of these speakers to campus by donating it to a local charity.

It is better to feed the homeless than it is to bring someone here to yell about the homeless. But overall, I suppose old Ted said it best, "When in doubt I whip it out, I got me a rock and roll band, it's a free for all."

Adam Bowman, Senior, Political Science, adamcb@bgsu.edu

## IDOL

From Page 4

sen Sanjaya Malakar to be the worst contestant that all viewers should vote for as many times as possible each week.

VFTW claims that their aim "isn't to win every week, but to get a bad contestant as far as possible" and if their top choice leaves the competition they will choose the next worst performer and encourage viewers to vote for them.

VFTW also offers a new service that will send text updates to your phone with Malakar's number each week.

So if you aren't able to watch American Idol because you have class or a meeting, you will have the number to vote for Malakar conveniently saved on your cell.

The service also claims to send the voting results each week to your phone on Wednesday nights.

Student Emily McWatters believes it's wrong that people are voting for the worst.

McWatters says, "What's the point in having a singing competition if people are going to vote for someone who can't belt out one note in tune?"

McWatters also makes a good point that if people continue to vote for the worst singers, the show may take away the viewer's freedom to

vote for their favorite contestants.

Like McWatters, student Patti Batchelor is also frustrated with American Idol. Batchelor exclaims, "People are turning the show into a joke!"

Student Mark Edwards says that the site is the only reason he watches the show.

Edwards rarely viewed the show in the past because he felt it was too repetitive.

Edwards explains, "Vote For The Worst makes American Idol more interesting and provides intrigue to an otherwise mundane show. Without the Web site, there is no reason to watch the show."

Edwards also feels that VFTW has shown its power in the past by making Taylor Hicks an American Idol winner, and that the Web site continues to prove that it is "a force to be reckoned with."

I must admit that at first I found contestants such as Antonella Barba and Malakar amusing to watch perform. Now that the climax of the competition is approaching, it's time to vote for the best singers in the competition instead of the worst.

There is no question that singers such as Lakisha Jones and Melinda Doolittle are more talented vocally than Malakar and Scarnato.

American Idol has been

the outlet for many singers such as Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and Chris Daughtry to receive national recognition for their talent.

Viewers should accept the fact that reality television is not perfect, and there are most likely many actions occurring behind the scenes that we may not agree with.

The important idea to keep in mind is that these contestants that perform on television are human beings who have hopes and dreams they are striving to achieve.

Vote for your favorite contestants if you wish to support them on their journey to accomplishing a career in the music business.

I continue to support my favorite performers Jordin Sparks and Blake Lewis through voting and making others aware of the plot to turn American Idol into a show that supports the worst singers in the nation.

Help preserve the goal of American Idol by supporting the best singers.

Let's also keep the worst singers where they belong: in the first few auditions before individuals with exceptional singing talent advance to Hollywood.

Send comments to Michelle Dominick at mdomini@bgsu.edu.

## PUTTING THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE



## POLITICS

From Page 4

the troops or do everything the Democrats' way.

Just a few short months ago, Democrats were accusing the President of taking a "my way or the highway" approach to the war. Déjà vu.

Speaking of the President, what has he been up to during this debate?

Essentially, it's the same thing he has been doing since the "end of major combat operations." He continues to demand unconditional support from both the public and Congress. "No strings attached" has become one of his pet phrases, with regards to both spending bills and legislation such as the Patriot Act.

His strategy for dealing with Congress has changed very little since the 2006 elections. It is

as if he didn't even notice that his party lost in a landslide!

President Bush has also been using Iraq as a political battleground. If Democrats disagree with him one little bit, or even attempt to debate one of his choices in the war, he labels them "soft" on the war, sometimes even accusing them of siding with the enemy.

Both Congressional Democrats and the President position themselves so that the other has two choices: to support the troops on the ground and give in to the other side, or to refuse to give in and provide no support.

Who loses? The troops on the ground. They become "collateral damage" from the war of words between the President and Congress. That's politics.

Send comments to Brendan Keep at keepb@bgsu.edu.

## WEB SITE POLL

Q: What are you most afraid of?

**Spiders:** 22%  
(46 people)

**Death:** 35%  
(72 people)

**The Dark:** 8%  
(16 people)

**Public Speaking:** 23%  
(48 people)

**Don't know:** 12%  
(25 people)

The BG News poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

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## FACULTY

From Page 1

chair has still yet to be named to replace Sobel.

With such a large change at hand, there is some worry in the department about being able to adapt. Shoemaker said he was concerned when he found out three of his colleagues would be leaving along with him next year.

"At the time we accepted our fellowship we didn't know we would also be losing professor Sobel and professor Dowell as well," he said.

But according to Sobel, this is not the first time the philosophy department has experienced the loss of several professors in one year. In 2002 the philosophy department lost five of its professors at once for various reasons.

"That was quite an unusual group of losses to have happen all at once," Sobel said.

Most in the department are optimistic that new professors and instructors will be found in time.

"I think we should be OK because there are lots of great people who need jobs in philosophy," Wall said.

## Officials rush Pope John Paul to sainthood

By Nicole Winfield  
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Catholic Church officials reach a key milestone in the drive to make Pope John Paul II a saint today, closing an investigation into his life and handing over a dossier detailing the purported miraculous cure of a nun who prayed to him.

The events come two years to the day after John Paul died — a remarkably fast pace that underscores the church's keen interest in beatifying John Paul and responding to the calls of "Santo Subito" or "Sainthood Immediately!" that erupted after his death.

Pope Benedict XVI put John Paul on the fast track for possible sainthood just weeks after his April 2, 2005, death, when he waived the customary five-year waiting period and allowed the investigation into his predecessor's virtues to begin immediately.

Such a waiver had only been granted once before, to Mother Teresa.

Benedict will not attend today's ceremony at the St. John Lateran

basilica to close the investigation into John Paul's life, a key step in the process of beatification and canonization. He was, however, scheduled to celebrate a Mass later in the day at St. Peter's Basilica to mark the second anniversary of John Paul's death.

Monsignor Slawomir Oder, the Polish prelate who is spearheading the beatification cause, acknowledged recently that his probe was completed unusually quickly — particularly considering the vast amount of material that had to be collected.

About 130 people were interviewed, historians gathered books about John Paul from libraries around the globe, and theologians studied his private writings to determine if he ever wrote anything heretical.

Critics also had a voice, although Oder said the vast majority of the criticism was not against John Paul as a person but against some aspect of his teachings or church doctrine. "To tell the truth, this doesn't weigh heavily on the merit of the process itself," he said.

Such complicated investigations often take decades or cen-



CLAUDE PARIS | AP PHOTO

**MIRACLE?** French nun Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, foreground, talks during a press conference at the archdiocese of Aix-en-Provence, north of Marseille, southern France, as Aix-en-Provence Archbishop Claude Feidt looks on. Smiling broadly, the nun said Friday that she was inexplicably and suddenly "cured" of Parkinson's disease in 2005, a case that could prompt the Roman Catholic Church to beatify Pope John Paul II. Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre stopped short of declaring her recovery a miracle, saying that was for the church to decide.

turies, not a matter of months.

"But speed doesn't mean a lack of seriousness," Oder said. "Aside from the dispensation of the delay to start the process, we have not sought any other waiver."

Indeed, he dismissed renewed

calls by John Paul's longtime private secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, archbishop of Krakow, Poland, to proceed to canonization immediately, saying the church's procedures must be respected.

## Quake leaves four missing

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck off the Solomon Islands today, sending a tsunami wave crashing into villages on the country's west coast and leaving at least four people missing, officials said.

The quake, measured at magnitude 7.6 and 8.1, triggered tsunami warnings throughout the South Pacific and as far north as Hawaii, though officials canceled the alert after the danger period passed.

Police in the western town of Gizo reported a wave several yards high crashing ashore, shortly before communications with the two police stations in the town were cut, said Sgt. Godfrey Abiah in the capital, Honiara.

Harry Wickham, a hotel worker in Gizo, told New Zealand television many buildings along the waterfront had been damaged.

"There was 10 feet of water rushing through town, there's been damage," he said.

Julian McLeod of the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office said there were unconfirmed reports that two villages in the country's far west were flooded.

"Two villages were reported to have been completely inundated," McLeod told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. "We have received reports of four people missing."

National broadcaster Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corp. said there was "serious damage" in Gizo and that the nearby town of Munda had also suffered "some damage" to buildings and property.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-7.6 earthquake struck at 7:39 a.m. about 6 miles beneath the sea floor, 217 miles northwest of Honiara.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center reported the quake at magnitude 8.1, and said a tremor of that strength could cause a destructive tsunami and issued a warning bulletin for the Solomon Islands and neighboring Papua New Guinea.

It ordered a lower-level "tsunami watch" for other places, including most South Pacific countries, but later cancelled the alert. The center said a 6-inch wave had been reported in Honiara.

Abiah said police in Gizo had been warning residents to move to higher ground away from the coast when the tsunami hit. Communications were lost soon afterward.

*The Tech Trends series is an exploration of the issues and trends in technology teaching and learning.*

*The series is sponsored by the Information Technology Committee (ITC), the Office of the Executive Vice President and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**BGSU**

## Sheen cited after weapons protest



**Martin Sheen**

Spent seven seasons as the president on "The West Wing"

test site property following the rally, test site spokesman Darwin Morgan said.

Organizers said about 150 people attended the demonstration, but Nye County Sheriff Tony DeMeo said it was only 75.

"We are asking for nuclear disarmament and peace," organizer Ming Lai said. "We are asking for the Nevada Test Site to stop doing the testing they're doing. The only reason they're doing it is to make bombs."

Sheen, who spent seven seasons playing President Josiah Bartlet on the TV drama series "The West Wing," has received similar citations at the test site in the past.

Calls to Sheen's publicist and agent yesterday were not immediately returned.

MERCURY, Nev. (AP) — Martin Sheen was among a group of peace activists cited during an anti-nuclear protest yesterday at the Nevada Test Site, authorities said.

A total of 39 protesters, including Sheen, were released after being cited by sheriff's deputies for crossing onto

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# Pet owners seek redress

Class action lawsuits could bring compensation

By Mark Johnson  
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Pet owners are not likely to get much compensation if they individually sue pet food-maker Menu Foods over the death of a dog or cat, although they might fare better if they joined forces in a class action suit, legal experts say.

Most state laws consider animals — even beloved pets — to be only personal property. That means that even for the loss of a faithful family companion, a successful civil lawsuit would not likely produce much reward, said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond.

"With animals, all you get is the value of the property," he said. "There are no emotional damages."

In early March, Menu Foods recalled 60 million containers of its "cuts and gravy" style wet pet foods, sold under nearly 100 store labels and major brands across North America. It did so after cats fell sick and died during routine company taste tests.



**Paul Henderson**  
President and CEO  
of Ontario-based  
Menu Foods

It is not clear how many pets may have been poisoned by the apparently contaminated food, although anecdotal reports suggest hundreds if not thousands have died. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has received more than 8,000 complaints while the company has fielded 300,000 calls from consumers. The company has only confirmed the deaths of 15 cats and one dog. There is no central database tracking pet deaths in the United States.

Numerous pet owners around the country have sued or are considering legal action against Menu Foods. Some are seeking class action status.

"I would love to find an attorney to take on this company," said Brenda Hitchcock of Tampa, Fla. Hitchcock said she racked

up \$4,000 in veterinarian bills trying to save her 5-year-old cat "S.S." to no avail. She said she still has two pouches of the recalled food to prove her case.

Ontario-based Menu Foods has taken a low-key approach to the recall, expressing concern for people who have lost pets and offering to pay veterinary bills if a pet's illness or death can be directly linked to the food, but admitting no wrongdoing.

Jack Hall, a product liability lawyer from Pittsburgh, said the owner of a dog or cat used for breeding or of a specially trained animal could argue for higher compensation on the basis of lost potential earnings.

Hall said pet owners would fare better if they joined in a class action suit.

"I would think this kind of case would allow itself to a class action. That could work for somebody here," he said.

Still, Tobias said even a class-action suit could be tricky.

"The factual variations in the cases will make it very difficult

See **SUITS** | Page 8



LEE CHONG KEUN | AP PHOTO

**SQUELCHING RIOTS:** Police officers spray a fire extinguisher on Huh Se-ok, 54, who burned himself in a protest against free trade agreements between the United States and South Korea yesterday. Huh escaped death, but was hospitalized. He was just one out of a crowd of people protesting the talks, which were pushed past the original U.S.-imposed deadline.

## Free trade negotiations wrap up amid 'ugly' protests

By Kelly Olsen  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea and the United States struggled to wrap up an elusive free trade agreement even as a deadline for concluding negotiations came and went.

Negotiators have met for eight straight days at a Seoul hotel. If they succeed, the accord to slash tariffs and other trade barriers would be the biggest for the U.S. since the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, and the biggest ever for South Korea.

"We're down to decision time as opposed to negotiation time," said Steve Norton, spokesman for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, suggesting that the two sides were reviewing each other's final offer more than one hour after the deadline Monday in Seoul.

After an all-night session Friday, the two sides said they needed to extend talks beyond the original midnight deadline, and agreed to finish the talks by 1 a.m. Monday in Seoul, corre-

sponding to a noon deadline yesterday in Washington.

The negotiations were marred by ugly protests outside the luxury hilltop hotel where delegates met. A man shouted "Stop the Korea-U.S. FTA" after setting himself on fire. He was treated for third-degree burns, police said.

Nearby, about 150 protesters, including farmers, students and activists, some wearing red or white headbands, denounced the talks, chanting "Down with the Roh Moo-hyun government," referring to South Korea's president.

A brief clash between some of the protesters and riot police carrying shields and truncheons erupted later, with one policeman falling to the ground bloodied. After dark, protesters gathered in front of Seoul City Hall for a candlelight protest, holding placards and chanting.

Police estimated the crowd at about 1,000 people. The protesters then marched through central Seoul toward the presidential Blue House, but they were checked by riot police.

**"We're down to decision time as opposed to negotiation time."**

Steve Norton | Spokesman

South Korean Trade Minister Kim Hyun-chong and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Karan Bhatia, as well as the chief negotiators for the two sides, have been meeting since last Monday to bridge contentious trade issues such as autos and agriculture.

The White House on Friday said that after 10 months of haggling, the talks were "not going well."

A USTR spokesman in Washington said Saturday that the U.S. must have wrapped up the deal by yesterday U.S. time. That is the deadline to notify Congress that President Bush does or does not intend to sign a deal under his expiring Trade

See **TALKS** | Page 8

## Government battles flood of fraudulent Hurricane Katrina claims

By Sharon Cohen  
The Associated Press

An Illinois woman mourns her two young daughters, swept to their deaths in Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters. It's a tragic and terrifying story. It's also a lie.

An Alabama woman applies for disaster aid for hurricane damage. She files 28 claims for addresses in four states. It's all a sham.

Two California men help stage Internet auctions designed to help Katrina relief organizations. Those,

too, are bogus.

More than 18 months after Hurricane Katrina decimated the Gulf Coast, authorities are chipping away at a mountain of fraud cases that, by some estimates, involve thousands of people who bilked the federal government and charities out of hundreds of millions of dollars intended to aid storm victims.

The full scope of Katrina fraud may never be known, but this much is clear: It stretches far beyond the Gulf Coast, like the hurricane evacuees themselves. So far, more than 600

people have been charged in federal cases in 22 states — from Florida to Oregon — and the District of Columbia.

The frauds range in value from a few thousand dollars to more than \$700,000. Complaints are still pouring in and several thousand possible cases are in the pipeline — enough work to keep authorities busy for five to eight years, maybe more.

"The reason we're seeing such widespread fraud is individuals were evacuated to all 50 states.

See **FRAUD** | Page 8

The BG News has a fall opening for a qualified student to work in part-time selling

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NATION  
BRIEFSTeen party ends abruptly  
after three people shot

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shots were fired at a party attended mostly by teenagers early yesterday following the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards, wounding three people, and police said they suspected gang members were involved.

The party in the western part of the city was thrown by someone who had attended the awards, but it was not an official Nickelodeon function and had no celebrity guests, police Lt. Roger Deranian said.

No arrests had been made by yesterday morning, police said.

The shooting occurred at about 12:30 a.m. at a drapery store rented for the party, which drew about 200 young people, Deranian said.

At least one person opened fire with an automatic weapon on the crowd after a group of five was denied entry, he said.

The three victims were hit below the waist and did not face life-threatening injuries, he said. They were taken to a hospital.

The annual awards show for the children's television cable channel aired live Saturday and was hosted by Justin Timberlake.

## SUITS

From Page 7

to form a class action," he said. "Will people have the proof they need to trace the harm done to the animal back to Menu Foods?"

Dog and cat food sales in the United States reached over \$14.3 billion in 2005, according to the Pet Food Institute that represents manufacturers of commercial pet food.

On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said recalled pet foods contained melamine, a chemical used to make plastics, but that its tests failed to confirm the presence of a rat poison, aminopterin, reported by the New York State Food Laboratory.

The FDA said it also found melamine in wheat gluten used as an ingredient in the wet-style products. Still, it was not immediately clear whether the melamine was the culprit in the deaths.

## Schools see decline in student meth addiction

By Martha Irvine  
The Associated Press

At one Minneapolis-area high school, the methamphetamine problem got so bad in recent years that staff members sometimes caught students trying to attend class while high.

But this year's been notably different, says Deborah Mosby, a high school drug counselor in Spring Lake Park, Minn.

It's a positive sign in a state that is one of many hard hit by the meth epidemic — and one of several early indications that a drug that's long been a scourge is losing its grip, at least in some communities.

Last year, federal officials and many states reported that the numbers of small "mom-and-pop" methamphetamine labs were dropping, a result largely attributed to the crackdown on the sale of pseudoephedrine and similar cold medicine ingredients used to make meth.

Officials feared that methamphetamine from Mexico would simply fill the void. And while authorities in some places have noticed an uptick in imported meth, others are hopeful that meth use is starting to wane.

Some examples:

—In Minnesota's Twin Cities, meth-related emergency room visits dropped from 1,402 in 2005 to 251 in 2006, according to a recent report by the nonprofit Hazelden Foundation.

—In Montana, a new report from that state's attorney general noted that meth-related crime fell 53 percent in 2006, compared

with the previous year. They also found that, while meth remains a big problem there, the overall rate of employees in Montana who tested positive for meth was down more than 70 percent from 2005 to last year.

—In the San Francisco Bay area, meth-related emergency room visits leveled off in 2006, after peaking the previous two years. Decline in meth use has been particularly notable among gay men, following efforts in their community to spread the word about the drug's ill effects, says John Newmeyer, who heads San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics. In addition to causing paranoid, aggressive behavior, meth is known for its harsh physical effects — from sunken eyes and bone-thin frames to teeth that turn gray and deteriorate.

Newmeyer believes such effects have helped change attitudes about meth for "probably the same reasons we saw the decline 10 years ago with African-Americans and crack cocaine."

"It just became not the thing to do," says Newmeyer, who tracks his region's drug numbers for the federal government.

The news isn't good everywhere — especially on the East Coast, where meth became a problem more recently.

South Florida has, for instance, continued to see a steady increase in meth-related deaths, from 77 in 2003 to 115 last year. It's also more of an urban problem than a rural one, with much of the meth coming from Mexico by way of Atlanta, says Jim Hall, executive director of the Up



JAMES A. FINLEY | AP PHOTO

**GRAPPLING WITH ADDICTION:** Shawn Bridges rests in his hospital bed in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Bridges, a southeast Missouri man whose documentary about how methamphetamine hopelessly ravaged his body drew global attention, died last Monday. Administrators in Minnesota high schools are working to prevent their students from suffering these same consequences.

Front Drug Information Center in Miami.

Others have noted surges in use in the Hispanic community — and also the advent of strawberry and other flavored meth, aimed at renewing interest in the drug.

Still, for much of the country, researchers say it appears this latest meth epidemic reached its peak in 2004 and 2005.

Data from the federal government shows that the number of first-time meth users has steadily declined in recent years.

And Quest Diagnostics Inc. — a

New Jersey company that maintains a national drug testing index based on millions of tests each year — found that 16 out of every 10,000 drug tests in the general work force came back positive for meth in 2006. That compares with 26 in 2005 and 33 the year before that.

While they still remain above the national average for overall positive tests for the amphetamine class of drugs, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Hawaii and Georgia saw the biggest drops in those positive tests, says Quest researcher Barry Sample.

Some law enforcement officials also are starting to feel less overwhelmed by methamphetamine — and, in some cases, seeing interest in the Mexican-made form of the drug decline.

"We expected a big switch (to Mexican meth) — and for a while there was," says Eric Schober, a police lieutenant with the criminal intelligence unit in Portland, Ore.

But in recent months, he says, he's seen the price of Mexican meth go up to more than \$1,000 an ounce, compared with \$600 to \$700 in the state's meth heyday.

## TALKS

From Page 7

Promotion Authority.

That "fast track" power to submit trade agreements to Congress for straight yes-or-no votes expires on July 1, but legally the agreement must be concluded 90 days in advance.

Norton said yesterday there would be no further extension of talks.

Any final deal would be subject to approval by both Congress and South Korea's

National Assembly.

South Korea has refused to include its \$9.1 billion rice market in a deal, saying the staple food is a "sensitive sector."

"The U.S. side has paid great attention to our situation and position, and I believe their understanding has also been greatly raised," Min Dong-seok, deputy minister for trade at the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, told reporters.

Other bottlenecks include trade in autos, Seoul's demand that goods made in a small North Korean industrial zone

by South Korean companies be included, and the status of U.S. beef, absent from South Korean markets for more than three years after mad cow disease was discovered in the United States.

Officials on both sides say an agreement would boost economic ties between two longtime allies, which already amounts to more than \$75 billion in annual trade.

South Korean opponents — including labor, farm and anti-globalization activists — say an influx of U.S. products would cost jobs.



TIM MUELLER | AP PHOTO

**VERIFYING CLAIMS:** U.S. Attorney David Dugas poses at the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force command center at LSU's Johnson Hall in Baton Rouge, La. Hundreds of fraud complaints related to the 2005 hurricane come in to the command center weekly. The frauds range in value from a few thousand dollars to more than \$700,000, and it may take officials five to eight years to clear up all the cases.

## FRAUD

From Page 7

Katrina was a national phenomenon," says David Dugas, U.S. attorney in Baton Rouge, La., and director of a command center that's part of a special Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force. "Everybody knew what was going on. Therefore, criminals knew what was going on."

Major disasters and fraud frequently go hand in hand. It happened after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Andrew's devastating sweep through Florida in 1992. People tried to cash in, falsely claiming to be victims.

After Katrina, the same thing happened: Disaster aid was sent to inmates who applied from prison and to people who claimed property damage and provided addresses of vacant lots or cemeteries, among many abuses documented in Government Accountability Office reports.

"We found several dozen schemes. There are probably a lot more out there," says Gregory Kutz, a GAO investigator who has testified about Katrina fraud six times on Capitol Hill. "The real clever ones cover their trail and disappear and they'll never be caught."

GAO undercover investigators demonstrated how easy it

"You can find criminals in every walk of life and that's what we're seeing here."

David Dugas | U.S. Attorney

was to cheat the system: Using phony names, Social Security numbers and addresses of damaged residences — such as the 13th floor of a two-story building — they still received several checks.

While many people filed bogus claims, the growing roster of the accused goes beyond the usual con artists. It includes employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, other public officials, business owners, even temporary workers for the Red Cross.

"You can find criminals in every walk of life and that's what we're seeing here," Dugas says.

The GAO has referred more than 22,000 potential cases of fraud to the Katrina task force, though Dugas says the majority probably will not pan out. In a recent audit, the GAO also concluded FEMA had recovered less than 1 percent of some \$1 billion investigators claim was fraudulent aid.

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## SIDELINES



## NCAA FINAL FOUR

## The Gators and Buckeyes square off tonight

Check out all the hype about the big rematch and all the characters involved | Page 10

TRACK & FIELD  
Dunning qualifies for NCAA Regionals

Takarra Dunning qualified for NCAA Regionals while the BGSU Falcons took fifth out of seven teams today at the Rocket Team Challenge. Dunning threw the shot put 48-08.00 to qualify for the NCAA Mid-East Regionals at the end of May. This distance passes her previous outdoor best in the event.

## OUR CALL

## On the way up

The likelihood of a rivalry being claimed by OSU and Florida in the near future. The two teams are squaring off for their second national championship in three months tonight. What are the odds?

## On the way down

Amount of enjoyment Ohio State fans take in the word "Florida." If the Buckeyes drop tonight's game, that will be a big step in total ownership of OSU for the Gators.

## The List

The BG News lists the top five things that will affect the outcome of tonight's national championship game.

## 1. Oden's foul

**count:** OSU knows that they can't play without Oden against Horford and Noah like they did against Hibbert.

## 2. Othella Hunter's defense:

He's got his work cut out for him. Whoever Oden is not guarding will draw Hunter. Good luck buddy.

## 3. Lee Humphrey:

If this dude is shooting well, the Buckeyes will have to play man-to-man on the perimeter, leaving Green and Brewer with lanes to drive.

## 4. Mike Conley Jr.:

This is OSU's spark plug. If Florida shuts him down, the Buckeyes are not going to have an easy time. That's not likely though, Conley is the most consistent player on the floor for OSU even though he plays second fiddle to Oden in the media.

## 5. The pace:

If Ohio State can slow the game down enough to keep Florida from scoring as much as they usually do, they might have a chance. If Florida can score quickly though, the Buckeyes are pretty much done.

## Back where they belong



KELLI CARDINALI | AP PHOTO

## Bluffton takes field after bus accident

By John Seewer  
The Associated Press

BLUFFTON, Ohio — Some players who survived a bus crash that killed five teammates said they wanted their first game since the accident to be about baseball, but it was much more than that.

"The whole season is for the five of them," team captain Ryan Baightel said after the game. "We owe it to them not just to play but to compete."

Opening day came a month later than it should have for Bluffton University. The Beavers took the field Friday in black jerseys to honor the five teammates.

Some of the starters still had scars and bruises from that awful morning in Atlanta.

Underneath the bill of outfielder Tony Moore's cap, he left a tribute in black marker.

"Scottie I Play For You," his message read.

Moore's hometown friend, Scott Graham, was among those killed four weeks ago.

Since then, the players have attended memorial services and questioned why they survived and their friends didn't. For a few hours Friday, they could focus on the game.

"Once you get out here, you're a baseball player," said coach James Grandey. "Obviously today had a little more meaning."

Grandey couldn't coach and watched from the sidelines. His jaw is wired shut and his right leg is in a metal brace.

There was a festive atmosphere under bright sunshine at the ball field next to the flat farm fields of northwest Ohio. Fans sat on blankets and lawn chairs along the fences and parents of players grilled hot dogs and burgers.

The crowd cheered when

See BLUFFTON | Page 12



KYLE ROBERTSON | AP PHOTO

**NEW BEGINNINGS:** (top) Members of Bluffton University's baseball team gather in prayer before their home opener Friday (right) John Betts touches a banner (4) in honor of his son David in left field. (bottom) The Bluffton University baseball team takes the field prior to their first baseball game.

Team has shown courage by playing

COLIN WILSON  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

When the first pitch hit the catcher's mitt Friday evening around 4 p.m., a collective sigh of relief was let out by a community that has been in pain for four weeks.

A field that normally has less than 100 fans in attendance was full of supporters — 1,500 in all. They lined the whole fence from one side of the field to the other. Television cameras crowded the first base line and students, parents and baseball fans filled the extra bleachers that were brought in by the Bluffton administration. It was time to

See COURAGE | Page 12



KELLI CARDINALI | AP PHOTO

## Netters split weekend conference matches

By Jordan Cravens  
Reporter

It was a weekend of opposites for the women's tennis team as they split two matches in Mid-American Conference play.

After dropping a close match, 4-3 to the defending MAC champs of Buffalo, the Falcons avenged the loss by defeating Akron, 6-1.

"They are definitely a stronger team," said BG Coach Penny Dean, referencing to the strength of the Buffalo squad.

The theme of opposites continued for the netters on both days. In Friday's match against Buffalo, BG claimed the doubles point while dropping the majority of singles matches. Conversely, on Sunday

they dropped the doubles point and continued on to sweep all the singles matches.

Doubles winners in the Buffalo match were Kelsey Jakupcin and Jenna Nussbaum at the first flight and Samantha Kintzel and Stefanie Menoff at the third flight.

The doubles victory was a milestone for the team, being able to claim that portion of the match from the defending MAC champs.

The Falcons were able to claim only two singles victories, which came from Jakupcin and Menoff, which led to their defeat.

"We got off to a great start winning the doubles point, but unfortunately we lost the majority of

See TENNIS | Page 12



BRYAN WINDSOR | THE BG NEWS

**SERVING IT UP:** Kelsey Jakupcin serves against Wright State in a March 18 match. The Falcons split this weekend's matches against Buffalo and Akron and moved to 10-5 on the season.

## Phelps nearly breaks Spitz' record

By Beth Harris  
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Ian Crocker's eagerness to get back in the pool after losing to Michael Phelps ended up costing his superstar teammate a shot at history — and more gold.

The U.S. team was shockingly disqualified in the 400-meter medley relay preliminaries yesterday, spoiling Phelps' bid for a record eight gold medals.

Crocker dove in for the butterfly leg before Scott Usher completed his breaststroke portion, result-

ing in the DQ. It was the first time any U.S. relay team failed to reach a final in world championships' history.

"Just an unlucky exchange," anchor Neil Walker said.

Ryan Lochte led off on the backstroke.

Crocker was back in the water for the first time since losing the 100 fly to Phelps the night before. Phelps' victory was his sixth gold medal of the meet, tying Ian Thorpe's record from 2001.

Phelps could still become the most successful swimmer at a world championships if he

wins the 400 individual medley Sunday night. He qualified fastest for the final.

"Michael was doing something that nobody has ever done before," Walker said. "I think everybody is going to be disappointed, Michael included. But he's going to see that this is the way it happens sometimes."

Walker attributed Crocker's mistake to "a little bit of overexertion."

"Ian had such an awesome race last night with Michael Phelps. To get back up the next morning is tough to do in the morning relay."



RYAN EVANS | THE BG NEWS

**THE THROW:** Ryan Shay throws to first in a game against Eastern Michigan March 24. The Falcons lost two of three games at Western Michigan over the weekend, winning the series finale Sunday.

## Struggles continue for Falcons in MAC

By Chayse Held  
Reporter

The struggles of the BG baseball team in conference play continued over the weekend as the Falcons dropped two of three games at Western Michigan (8-14, 3-3).

BG (12-14, 1-5 MAC) salvaged a 9-5 win in the series finale after losing the first two games 3-1 and 5-1, respectively. The win yesterday puts the Falcons' record at 3-9 since St. Patrick's Day.

The Broncos' pitching held the Falcons' bats in check in the first two games, with BG managing just five hits in each game

and two runs total.

Starting pitcher Tyler Johnson was solid on the hill again for BG on Friday, but a lack of run support spoiled another productive start by the Tipp City native. Johnson (3-2) went eight innings, giving up three earned runs on six hits with four strikeouts and two walks.

Marty Baird was one of five Falcons with a hit each. His single drove in Kurt Wells in the top of the first for BG's lone run.

"It's certainly not the how we wanted to start off, but there's a lot more of baseball

See BASEBALL | Page 12





# Sound familiar?

## Buckeyes, Gators meet in another championship just three months later

### DOUBLE THE FUN

**AGAIN?:** The Buckeyes and Gators meet just three months after they played the NCAA Football Championship game. The Gators won that game 41-14 over the heavily favored Buckeyes.

### OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

- 1 Mike Conley Jr. G 6-1 180 Fr Indianapolis
- 3 Ivan Harris F 6-7 220 Sr Springfield, Ohio
- 12 Ron Lewis G 6-4 200 Sr Columbus, Ohio
- 13 Danny Peters G 6-1 170 So New Albany, Ohio
- 14 Jamar Butler G 6-2 205 Jr Lima, Ohio
- 20 Greg Oden C 7-0 280 Fr Indianapolis
- 23 David Lighty G-F 6-5 220 Fr Cleveland
- 31 Daequan Cook G 6-5 210 Fr Dayton, Ohio
- 34 Mark Titus G 6-4 215 Fr Brownsburg, Ind.
- 42 Matt Terwiler F-C 6-8 250 Jr Troy, Ohio
- 45 Othello Hunter F 6-9 225 Jr Winston-Salem, N.C.

### FLORIDA GATORS

- 1 Brett Swanson G 6-2 180 Sr Pace, Fla.
- 2 Corey Brewer F 6-9 185 Jr Portland, Tenn.
- 3 Brandon Powell G 6-3 187 Fr Memphis, Tenn.
- 11 Taurean Green G 6-0 177 Jr Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- 12 Lee Humphrey G 6-2 192 Sr Maryville, Tenn.
- 13 Joakim Noah F-C 6-11 230 Jr New York
- 15 Walter Hodge G 6-0 170 So Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
- 21 Dan Werner F 6-7 235 Fr Middletown, N.J.
- 22 Jack Berry G 6-6 215 Jr Windermere, Fla.
- 23 Jonathan Mitchell F 6-7 243 Fr Mount Vernon, N.Y.
- 25 Garrett Tyler G-F 6-7 200 Jr Palm Harbor, Fla.
- 32 Chris Richard F-C 6-9 255 Sr Lakeland, Fla.
- 34 Marreese Speights F-C 6-10 245 Fr St. Petersburg, Fla.
- 42 Al Horford F-C 6-10 245 Jr Puerto Plata,

By Eddie Pells  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — It's no accident that they are meeting again for a championship. Calling it pure coincidence might not be totally right, either.

Florida and Ohio State are dominating marquee college sports like no two programs ever have. Their meeting today for the basketball title comes three months after they played for the football championship. Regardless of the outcome, the Gators already go down as the first program to hold the men's basketball and football titles at the same time.

The programs are products of two mega-sized athletic departments awash in money, fan support, strong decision makers at the top and good coaches interspersed throughout their respective campuses.

"When you have resources, that usually means you have the wherewithal to have good facilities," said Chuck Neinas, the well-respected leader of a search firm that finds football coaches and athletic directors for big-time programs. "You build a tradition of success that attracts talent, and that allows you to pay for good coaches."

Though the schools operate in different sections of the country, these power programs have more things in common than not. Most notably, these are — or at least once were — schools where football was king.

Nothing against the basketball programs, but success in football drives success in everything else at most universities. It's the sheer fact of numbers. With the exceptions of a few elite basketball programs, there's simply more money to be made by filling 105,000 seats in the Horseshoe, or 90,000 at the Swamp, than by filling a basketball arena one-fifth their size.

"The correlation between 105,000 people on a Saturday afternoon in the Shoe definitely helps all programs," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "I think it's helped us through the recruiting process. The notoriety of the football program is something we try to work hand-in-hand with."

Thanks in large part to revenue from the football program, Ohio State led the NCAA in revenue last year, bringing in nearly \$105 mil-

lion. Florida brought in \$78 million. Both programs made enough money that they were able to donate to their schools instead of having the school supplement them.

The days of basketball coaches defending their programs' status on these campuses are long gone. Instead, they bask in the football teams, taking recruits to games and bringing those coaches in for motivational speeches to their teams.

"It's everything at Florida that's good," Gators coach Billy Donovan said. "Certainly the football program is terrific. As I said earlier, I think where there's problems on campuses with coaches is when all the focus is totally just on one sport."

And Matta: "My goal is not to make Ohio State a basketball school. I think my goal is to make it the best basketball program that we possibly can."

Harmony aside, this isn't to say these programs are perfect. It's just that their solutions to the problems, when they arise, are better.

The OSU football program has moved on from the Maurice Clarett imbroglio. The star of the 2002 national championship team, Clarett created problems while he was in school by accusing administrators of not caring about him and caused even more drama afterward when he lied about receiving thousands of dollars in improper benefits.

In basketball, Matta was hired to clean up the program after former coach Jim O'Brien was fired for giving \$6,000 to a recruit, which helped land the Buckeyes on probation.

The probes led to the departure of embattled athletic director Andy Geiger, who said he was burned out from all the turmoil. Despite that, he laid much of the groundwork for the current success, and his replacement, Gene Smith, has overseen a smooth transition for what is largely regarded as the country's biggest athletic department.

"Certainly, you'd have to put Jeremy Foley and Gene Smith in the finalists of the most respected athletic directors in country," Neinas said.

Foley runs a department that is not so lovingly known by some as "The Firm," for its dispassionate ability to make problems go away.

Of late, the NCAA hasn't been a

problem. But when Florida hired Ron Zook to replace Steve Spurrier and that experiment started spiraling out of control, Foley pulled the plug on The Zooker, his good friend, after 2 1/2 years and did everything he could to land Urban Meyer.

Many feel Florida will pay whatever it takes to keep Donovan if Kentucky comes calling after tonight's game. Rumors are circulating that Foley is willing to pay \$1 million for a new women's basketball coach in an attempt to rebuild the only long-struggling program in the department.

"There's tremendous, outstanding leadership there in Jeremy Foley," said David Housel, the former Auburn athletic director who competed against Florida for most of his career. "He has a professional and personal commitment at Florida. He worked his way up through the department. He knows the department, knows the school, he hires great coaches and they all tend to mirror his personality and his work ethic."

In the football title game in January, Florida won 41-14 to earn the school's second national championship. Now, basketball gets its chance to pull back into a tie.

The tally at Ohio State is football 4, basketball 1.

For all the money and success these programs have generated, the trips to the title games aren't big money makers all by themselves. In fact, most money earned from a Final Four or Bowl Championship Series trip is divided evenly among all the teams in the participant's conference. In some cases, these trips are actually money losers for the schools, after all the expenses are paid.

But when tonight's game is over, it will be hard to call either of these schools losers.

"I think it's a coincidence they've met in the national championships in both sports," Housel said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that they're in the mix every year. It's a compliment to the fan bases, the alumni, the leadership. It's two programs on very solid footing."



Joakim Noah  
Florida Forward



Greg Oden  
OSU Center



Corey Brewer  
Florida Guard



Mike Conley Jr.  
OSU Guard



## Despite season, OSU not favored

By Charles Odum  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — No. 1 in the polls to end the season, No. 1 seed in the NCAA South Region, the nation's longest winning streak at 22 games. Gaudy credentials, for sure, but not compelling enough to make Ohio State the favorite in tonight's national championship game against Florida.

A different set of numbers leaped out when the oddsmakers made Florida a 4 1/2-point favorite: 86-60.

As in the score when these same two teams played on Dec.

23. Florida won that one, of course, and never mind that the game was played at Florida or that it was just the fifth game for Ohio State center Greg Oden, coming off wrist surgery.

"At that time I didn't think we could lose like that," Buckeyes senior Ron Lewis recalled.

Oden obviously has matured since then, and the Georgia Dome isn't the O'Connell Center in Gainesville, but it's still fair to ask how can the Buckeyes make up those 26 points. Does Ohio State really have a chance to stop Florida from winning a second straight national title?

The Buckeyes insist they are as confident as they were before their 67-60 semifinal victory over Georgetown on Saturday night.

"People thought we were

going to lose last night's game, but we came out on top," Lewis said.

Still, Ohio State doesn't quibble with the Gators being the favorites.

"I do feel like we're the underdog," coach Thad Matta said before running his team through their final practice yesterday. "I mean, they are the defending national champions with their top seven players back."

That's just fine with the players.

"It's nothing new to us," Lewis said. "All we're going to do is keep playing the same way we've been playing."

Ohio State has lost only one game since its visit to Gainesville, but that doesn't

See OSU | Page 12

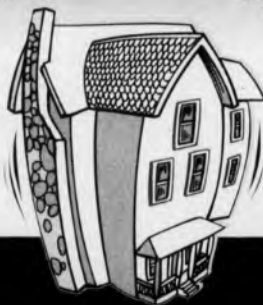
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Water	\$0	\$0	\$120	Included w/Electric
Trash	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Basic Cable	\$44	\$44	\$0	\$44
Internet	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48
Parking	No Monthly Charge	No Monthly Charge	\$15 per month each	No Monthly Charge
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## BASEBALL

From Page 9

to be played," said BG assistant coach Tod Brown. "We pitched well most of the weekend but it's a lack of production at the plate that is hurting us. We had plenty of opportunities but we didn't get the big hits."

In the second game, Falcon

bats were quiet again, but four errors put BG behind early and lead to the 5-1 Western victory.

Nick Cantrell (2-3) went 6.2 innings and scattered 10 hits, but two of the four runs he surrendered were unearned.

Brian Hangbers produced the only run for the Falcons in the form of an opposite-field solo homerun (4) that cut the Bronco lead to two in the seventh. It

would not be enough though, as BG left eight runners on the bases for the game.

"Our concern with the bats was more on the approach and effort side than the technique that the guys have," Brown said.

After discussing their strategy at the plate before game three, the Falcons' offense finally woke up yesterday in the form of nine runs, 12 hits and a much-needed

first win in the MAC.

Seven of the nine starters recorded hits for BG, with Baird leading the way with two doubles and three RBI. Hangbers, Jeff Talmanik, Logan Meisler and Andrew Foster also had multiple hits for the Falcons.

"You have to score runs to win games and the offense has been struggling," Hangbers said. He went 3-8 with 2 RBI

and three runs for the weekend. "[Yesterday] was a very important win. Everybody's spirits were low and coach had a good talk with us before the game about hitting the ball hard all the time ... we just need to go out there and do it, and [this] win proves we can play with anybody."

Dan Horvath (2-2) got the win for the Falcons, giving up two

earned runs in six innings. The senior allowed six hits while striking out four batters without giving up a walk.

Up next for the Falcons is a five-game home stand beginning with IPFW tomorrow and Xavier on Wednesday before pre-season MAC favorite Central Michigan comes to Stellar Field for a three-game series next weekend.

## BLUFFTON

From Page 9

pitcher Tim Kay, who was not badly hurt in the crash, struck out the first batter he faced, Ryan Meyer.

The batter's father, Jimmy Meyer, 52, of Cincinnati, said it was more than a ball game. "My heart goes out to them. It's got to be a tough situation," he said.

The Beavers lost the opener 10-5 against the College of Mount St. Joseph from Cincinnati. Too many errors and walks, Grandey told his team.

He laughed at the suggestion that the score didn't matter. "You guys don't know me well," he said.

The players who died were never far from anyone's thoughts.

"Part of our team isn't out there," said Gwynne Freytag, whose son Brandon kicked out a hatch on the bus to allow players to escape the wreckage. "But it's a chance to move ahead for the boys. They're a team, and I've just got a feeling there's a lot of angels in the outfield today."

Five white crosses hung on the chain-link fence next to the visitors' dugout. On the outfield fence, banners hung by the team displayed the uniform numbers of the dead.

"It's almost like they're here with us," said Moore, a junior outfielder from Elida.

John Betts, whose son died in the accident, wore his son's purple ball cap that the team gave him after the crash and a

black T-shirt retrieved from his son's luggage that still smelled of diesel fuel.

"To play on takes a lot of courage," he said. "There's no question David would have wanted them to do it. He would have said, 'Please play; play on.'"

Freshman A.J. Ramthun watched the game from the bullpen, his left arm in a sling.

As the team took the field, he had just one thought.

"Let's play baseball," he said. "That's what we were all thinking."

"Really we've had too much time to think about our accident," Ramthun said. "Playing baseball is a step in the right direction toward recovery."

Nearly a month ago, the team from the Mennonite-affiliated school was headed to Florida for a tournament when investigators say the driver apparently mistook an exit ramp for a highway lane.

Their bus plunged off an overpass March 2. Four players, the bus driver and his wife died on the day of the wreck. A fifth player died a week later.

Student coach Tim Berta, 22, of Ida, Mich., remains in critical condition in an Atlanta hospital but is improving. Berta had been sedated, but Friday "is the first day he really woke up and was able to follow commands," said his mother, Karen Berta.

None of the survivors wanted to give up on the season.

They talked about playing again just a day after the crash. They sought the permission of the victims' families before making the final decision.

## COURAGE

From Page 9

play baseball.

From the moment the Beavers took the field for warmups until the end of the game when they gathered for a prayer in left field, they were in the only place where things always made sense — a baseball diamond.

Bluffton lost five players in a tragic bus accident March 2. Those five players are still present at the field where they loved to play. The names and numbers of Tyler Williams, David Betts, Scott Harmon, Cody Holp and Zach Arend are featured on individual banners on the left field fence.

The banners serve a great

purpose and have a meaning that is not all that easy to understand.

I realized it when I saw the players before and after the game. They were doing the chalk lines on the batters box and the baselines. They pulled a tarp over the field when the game was over. They picked up bottles and other garbage around the field. Then they had a cookout with their parents.

All of these things demonstrate that Division III athletes are the ultimate hard workers. They play for nothing but their love of the game. No scholarships, no room and board, just a chance to play.

That's why it was so good to see the Beavers take the field Friday. They aren't necessarily

obligated to play baseball like a scholarship athlete would be. After such a tragic event, the players still went out and played. They could have just as easily put the season on the back burner but they decided to play in honor of their fallen teammates.

Not everyone takes this into account when they look at this situation. These guys just love to play baseball; they don't get the treatment of Division I athletes, they just go out and play while balancing classes and social lives like everyone else.

They weren't at full strength by any means, but the Beavers found a way to play a competitive baseball game Friday. Their coach James Grandey can't walk without crutches yet

and has his jaw wired shut. He couldn't even be on the bench during the game. Grandey still filled out his team's lineup card and gave them advice before and after the game — they gave up too many walks and had too many errors in their 10-5 loss to Mount St. Joseph.

This is another classic example of why sports are a great healing agent. Baseball brought the 40 players on Bluffton's roster together. It was also the reason they were traveling through Atlanta when they got into a bus accident. And now, baseball is the reason these young men are able to cope. They have been hearing about their team's tragedy for four weeks. Now the story is back where they want it — on the baseball field.

## TENNIS

From Page 9

singles matches, even though they were close battles," Dean said.

Jakupcin played an outstanding match, facing the normal No. 1 Singles player for Buffalo whom she defeated in three sets, 7-6, 3-6 and 6-3.

"I think this was Kelsey's biggest win since she has been here,"

Dean said.

Leading into Saturday's match against Akron, the netters didn't let a loss keep them down.

"If it's possible to feel good about a loss, we felt good about Buffalo, because we had a chance at winning," Dean said, commenting on the positive aspect of losing on Friday.

The Falcons started out the match perhaps being a little over-confident in their opponent according to Dean, who

commented on the overall improvement of the Akron Squad, as they dropped the doubles point winning only at the third flight of doubles.

After regrouping, the netters rebounded and went on to capture all singles matches in two sets from top to bottom. A lineup change required sophomore Libby Harrison to step in at No. 6 Singles, her first singles start both in dual match play and conference play alike.

Harrison defeated her opponent Laura Hemlepp 6-4, 6-2, further contributing to the singles sweep.

"I was really excited; I wanted to help my team to win especially since it was a MAC match," Harrison said. "I was just focusing on my match and what I needed to do, and was counting on the rest of my teammates to win their matches."

The Falcons are now 10-5 overall (2-1) in the MAC.

## OSU

From Page 10

necessarily mean the Buckeyes have been hoping for a rematch.

"I don't want to say that, you know, I circled Florida and said, 'I want to play Florida again,'" Matta said. "You get beat by 26 points, you really don't want to see that team for a while."

History favors Ohio State, even if the oddsmakers don't.

In five of the last six national championship game rematches, the team that lost the regular-season game came back to win the championship game. Most recently, Georgia Tech beat Connecticut 77-61 in the 2003-04 regular season before losing to the Huskies in the national championship rematch.

Ohio State's players say revenge is not their main motivation.

"We just looked past it," Lewis

said. "We grew from it. We didn't know if we were going to play them again. It's great for both teams to get another shot at it."

"We're just looking for a different outcome. It wasn't us trying to get back at them, just trying to win this game. This game has more on it than that game in December."

Only one player, guard Jamar Butler, would say he wanted another shot at Florida.

"I did say that I wanted another

er crack at them," Butler said. "I knew we didn't play our best, top-notch basketball. We played pretty bad that game. When it's not on their home floor but on a neutral floor, I think it will be a different game."

Florida didn't dominate Ohio State from the start of the game in December. The game was tied at 40-40 early in the second half.

"Florida went on a run," Matta said.

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# Darfur brutality intimidates Silla sultan's power

By Alfred de Montesquiou  
The Associated Press

GOZ BEIDA, Chad — The sultan of Silla looked worried: Arab-African violence spilling over from Darfur is threatening his region of eastern Chad in what is quickly growing into a regional conflict.

"The picture is so bleak," Sultan Said Ibrahim told John Holmes, the U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief, during Holmes' visit here this past week. "I can't even tell you how bad things are getting."

Holmes is wrapping up a week-long trip to the Darfur region in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic — his first as the U.N.'s humanitarian chief — by calling for a strong political effort to end the region's growing chaos. While on the trip, he forged a deal with Sudan designed to give aid workers' greater access to Darfur.

But Holmes also cited worries that humanitarian efforts might collapse because of increasing violence. He said he would tell

the U.N. Security Council that the three central African countries are facing "a complex crisis, to which we cannot offer a simplistic solution."

Brahim's situation is one example of the complexity.

As ruler of a vast region of Chad that borders Darfur in Sudan, where Arab government forces and their allied militias have killed African villagers by the thousands, Brahim told Holmes he is watching, aghast, as the violence spreads rapidly into his own society.

Refugee camps have popped up across his lands. Raiders from Sudan have swept down on Chadian villagers, killing some and chasing thousands of others away. Cohabitation and friendship between Arabs and Africans here has given way to distrust and thinly veiled hatred.

Brahim, an African from the dominant Dajjo tribe, pointed to one of his most trusted underlings, Sheikh al-Mahdi al-Samani, to whom Brahim is connected by marriage.

"He is being rejected, people

are wary of him because he is an Arab," Brahim said. "Are politics going to destroy centuries of friendship?"

For his part, al-Samani said at least 10 of his tribe's villages had emptied in the past two months, with whole clans packing up and moving away. He said he had given his men orders to shoot Sudanese militiamen who cross into his territory looking for recruits.

"We are fighting to stop the fighting," he said.

The government of Chad has also gotten involved, arming Africans to try to fend off attacks from Arab militias in Darfur. But both al-Samani and Brahim said privately, when Chadian government officials had stepped away, that this policy was part of the problem, blaming much of the increase in attacks on the newly formed African militias.

More than 200,000 people have been killed in Darfur in four years of fighting between ethnic

See **VIOLENCE** | Page 14



ALFRED DE MONTESQUIOU | THE BUREAU

**WAITING:** Central African Republic refugees await visiting U.N. undersecretary general John Holmes. Holmes, who vowed to raise international efforts for the CAR's 210,000 internal refugees, which he described as the victims of one of Africa's most neglected crisis.

## Attacks continue as people flee

By Salad Duhul  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Mogadishu's dominant clan said yesterday it broke a truce with Ethiopian military officials who are supporting Somalia's government, even as mortar shells continued slamming into the capital for a fourth day.

Ahmed Diriye, the Hawiye clan spokesman, said fighting in Mogadishu should end within hours. Ethiopian offi-

cials were not immediately available for comment.

Somali government troops and their Ethiopian allies have been waging a fierce offensive since Thursday to wipe out Islamic insurgents, sparking some of the heaviest fighting in 15 years in the capital. Untold numbers of civilians have been killed and hundreds wounded.

The offensive has focused on parts of the capital controlled by a clan that is a major supporter of more radical elements of the Council of Islamic Courts,

which ruled Mogadishu for six months before being driven out in December. That clan is the Habr Gedir, a branch of the larger Hawiye clan.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said dozens of people have been killed since Thursday and more than 220 wounded, most of them civilians with bullet, grenade and other wounds. But the fighting is so severe and widespread

See **FLEE** | Page 14

## Seeking an end to Arab-Israeli clash

By Karin Laub  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — In a dramatic response to an Arab peace initiative, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday invited Arab leaders to a regional peace conference to discuss their ideas for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Olmert's surprise call came amid a flurry of new international peace efforts. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has repeatedly traveled to Israel to try to spur nego-

tiations, and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is currently president of the EU, was here yesterday to buttress those efforts.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Merkel, Olmert said, "I would take advantage of this important opportunity of being here in Jerusalem with the president of the European Union to invite to a meeting all Arab heads of state, including, of course, the king of Saudi Arabia, whom I regard as an important leader, in order to engage in dialogue." He said each side would



**Ehud Olmert**

said he's not ready to order a large-scale military operation in Gaza.

bring its own demands, and neither would try to dictate terms.

Almost every Israeli prime minister has called for peace talks with moderate Arab leaders over the years, but the only

See **ENDING** | Page 14

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## VIOLENCE

From Page 13

African rebels and the Sudanese government and pro-government Arab janjaweed militia, and more than two million have been forced into refugee camps.

Chad and Sudan trade accusations of harboring each other's rebels. The United Nations has proposed sending an 11,000-man peacekeeping force to secure the border, but Chad's president, Idriss Deby has backtracked on his initial willingness to accept it, saying he only wants a police force to protect the refugee camps.

Some Western diplomats and aid officials believe Deby is worried that any peacekeeping force would only worsen his relations with the Sudanese government. Sudan's government has stridently rejected any U.N. forces to help pacify Darfur, saying they would only make the situation worse.

Caught in the middle are

Darfuri and Chadian civilians.

"The janjaweed kill us if we leave the camp to collect firewood," one woman told Holmes, the U.N. chief, during his recent tour of her refugee camp near Goz Beida.

The woman, who did not give her name, said refugees are starving and have begun selling items distributed by aid workers, like mats and blankets, to buy food.

"We're so hungry that we are falling ill," she told Holmes, crying. "Our elders have already died."

Holmes told the woman and other officials here that he would push for more aid: A scarcity of natural resources has contributed to tensions between Darfur refugees and local villagers, who now compete for such essential things as water and firewood.

But Holmes said his power and influence are limited, without a demonstration of political will to solve the crisis from the governments of Chad and Sudan.

## FLEE

From Page 13

that bodies were not being picked up or even tallied. Hospitals were overwhelmed, with patients sleeping on floors.

"The victims are the civilians, only civilians are dying and getting wounded in this fighting," Khadijo Farah Warsame, 45, a mother of seven, said Saturday.

Ethiopia says its forces have killed more than 200 insurgents since the assault started.

Somali presidential spokesman Hussein Mohamoud Hussein on Saturday blamed the violence on foreign terrorists, saying al-Qaida had sent fighters to battle government and allied troops.

"These elements were behind the downing of the helicopter yesterday," he said.

The insurgents are linked to the Council of Islamic Courts, which was driven

from power in December by Somali and Ethiopian soldiers, accompanied by U.S. special forces. The U.S. has accused the courts of having ties to al-Qaida.

The Islamic courts stockpiled thousands of tons of weapons and ammunition during the six months they controlled Mogadishu. The insurgency will likely last until that stockpile is depleted, or key leaders are killed.

The militants have long rejected any secular government and have sworn to fight until Somalia becomes an Islamic emirate. Clan elders have tried to negotiate several cease-fires, but cannot control the young insurgents.

The U.N.'s refugee agency said 58,000 people have fled violence in the Somali capital since the beginning of February.

Somalia has been mired in chaos since 1991, when warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and then turned on one another.



MOHAMEDF SHEIKH NOR | THE BG NEWS

**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE:** Somali women with luggage leave Mogadishu Somalia. The U.N. refugee agency says 58,000 people have fled violence in the Somali capital since the beginning of February. Dozens of people have been killed since Thursday and more than 220 wounded.

## ENDING

From Page 13

multinational forum was the 1991 Madrid conference, which was followed by secret Israeli-Palestinian contacts and a series of interim peace accords. Olmert's invitation yesterday was the first time Israel has called on Saudi Arabia — which maintains a state of war with Israel, but has also pushed recently for a peace deal — to take the lead.

At a summit in Saudi Arabia last week, the Arab League renewed a 2002 Saudi peace plan that would recognize Israel in exchange for withdrawal from all captured territories and a just solution for the Palestinian refugees. Olmert welcomed the decision but said Israel did not accept all parts of the plan.

"I think this new way of thinking, the willingness to recognize Israel as an established fact and to debate the conditions of the future solution, is a step that I can't help but appreciate," he said.

While he proposed a region-

al meeting, he also said he would attend a meeting under Saudi auspices.

He said that if King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia were to invite him, moderate Arab leaders and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to a meeting "to present Saudi Arabia's ideas before us, we will come to hear them and be glad to offer our ideas."

There was no immediate response from Saudi Arabia.

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said Olmert should agree to the Arab peace initiative.

"I think if he accepts the Arab peace initiative, it would open the way to many conferences, not one," he said.

In a series of interviews over the weekend, Olmert said he would welcome talks with Saudi Arabia and moderate Arab leaders, but he stopped short of calling for a regional peace conference.

Merkel cautiously embraced the idea.

"It is important to talk, but is also important to turn the spoken word into deeds," she said.

## 29 lives claimed during Avalanches

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Avalanches struck two villages in a remote part of north-west Pakistan, killing at least 29 people and leaving 14 others missing, police said yesterday.

Heavy rains and snow have been lashing Chitral, a rugged district near the border with Afghanistan, since late last week. In some areas, about six feet of snow has fallen over the past several days, Ijaz Ahmed, a senior police officer, said by telephone from the area.

"All the roads are blocked due to landslides. There is no access to the area," he said.

Bad weather blocked helicopter flights and authorities planned to send food, medicines and blankets by air on Monday.

One avalanche hit 18 homes in the village of Wasij late Saturday, killing 24 people

**"All the roads are blocked due to landslides. There is no access to the area."**

Ijaz Ahmed | Senior Police Officer

whose bodies were recovered by neighbors and police, Ahmed said.

Six people were pulled alive from the rubble, three of them with injuries, he said. Fourteen people remained missing.

Five members of one family were killed when an avalanche hit their home in the village of Postaki, Ahmed said by telephone from the town of Chitral, 170 miles northwest of Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

## McCain says new Iraqi plans are effective

By Kim Gamel  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — After a heavily guarded trip to a Baghdad market, Sen. John McCain insisted yesterday that a U.S.-Iraqi security crackdown in the capital was working and said Americans lacked a "full picture" of the progress being made.

McCain, a Republican presidential hopeful, acknowledged a difficult task lies ahead in Iraq, but criticized the media for not giving Americans enough information about the recent drop in execution-style sectarian killings, the establishment of security posts throughout the city and Sunni tribal efforts against al-Qaida in the western Anbar province.

"These and other indicators are reason for cautious, very



**John McCain** spoke during a press conference in the Green Zone in Baghdad.

cautious optimism about the effects of the new strategy," said McCain, who was leading a Republican congressional delegation to Iraq that included Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Members of the delegation spoke at a Green Zone news conference after they rode from Baghdad's airport in armored vehicles and under heavy guard to visit the city's largest market. They said the trips were proof that security was improving in the capital. Prominent visitors normally make the trip from the airport to the city center by helicopter.

# HOLY WEEK

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**HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 5**

**Holy Thursday Mass** with Washing of Feet 7:30 PM in Chapel  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
from after Mass until midnight Night Prayer  
will be celebrated at 11:30 PM to conclude Adoration

**GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 6**

**Good Friday Service** 12:00 Noon  
Includes Reading of the Passion according to John,  
Communion and Veneration of the Cross (STM)  
**Stations of the Cross** 12:00 PM  
(in the Ballroom of the Union. Stations are at your leisure.  
Come when you're free. Stay as long as you like.)  
**Movie The Passion of the Christ** 3:00 PM (BGSU Student Union Theater)  
**Stations of the Cross and Taize Prayer** 7:00 PM (STM)

**HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 7**

**EASTER VIGIL** 8:00 PM  
First Sunday Mass, lighting of new fire and blessing of water,  
reception of new candidates into the church

**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 8**

**Easter Masses**  
10:00 AM  
12:00 Noon  
There is no 7:00 PM Mass Easter Day

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# Blackwell speaks truth, conservatism

By John McCarthy  
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — The booming voice and conservative message were familiar.

Ken Blackwell was speaking to an audience, most of them black men, about the joys and the hard work of marriage and how important families are in life.

"We are not going to win back our schools, we are not going to strengthen our schools until we strengthen our marriages," the 2006 Republican candidate for governor told the crowd during a recent luncheon speech.

Blackwell, 59, the first black Republican to seek the state's highest office, has re-emerged into public life since his devastating loss Nov. 7 to Democrat Ted Strickland, who collected 60 percent of the vote.

After three months of laying low — for the spotlight-hugging Blackwell, anyway — he's been a busy man.

On Feb. 15, the Buckeye Institute, a conservative think tank based in Columbus, announced Blackwell had signed on as a senior fellow.

The Washington, D.C.-based Family Research Council, a group that promotes conservative values, appointed Blackwell as a senior fellow for "family empowerment."

He also is writing commentary for the conservative Web forum Townhall.com, and does more commentary for Salem Radio Network, both associated with the religious- and family-oriented Salem Communications Corp.

Blackwell insists he's not spreading himself too thin.

"All of us came to this arrangement with our eyes wide open. Buckeye knew about FRC, FRC knew about Buckeye. They both knew about Townhall.com and



TONY DEJAK | AP PHOTO

**ENLIGHTENMENT:** In this Oct. 31, 2006 file photo, former Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Blackwell speaks to supporters at the Russian Tea Room in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

Salem radio," Blackwell said after his speech. "It's all blending real well and I feel good about the impact that we'll be able to have on state public policy debates and discussions, as well as nationally."

Blackwell is familiar with the agendas of those groups. In 2004, he helped to lead the drive that resulted in Ohio's passage of a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages. The Family Research Council supported the ban, which passed with 62 percent of the vote.

Although the group's passion is social conservatism, Blackwell said his role will be to explain the role that the economy and other budgetary issues play in keeping families together. That's similar to his role at

the Buckeye Institute, which publishes papers on fiscal conservatism and low taxes.

"They (FRC) asked me to sort of build up the economic and fiscal dimension and show how that is an important part of what they do and what they find to be important. One of the areas where Buckeye and FRC share a public policy interest is in the area of advancing school choice and parental empowerment. It's 21st century civil rights," Blackwell said.

Blackwell, a former state treasurer, is well-suited to discuss economic issues, but his position against abortion and on other issues will allow him to speak to many constituencies, FRC President Tony Perkins said.

## ON THE MOVE

A look at Ken Blackwell, who lost the race for governor last year and is now working with the Buckeye Institute and other state groups.

**NAME** — J. Kenneth Blackwell  
**PARTY** — Republican  
**AGE/BIRTH DATE** — 59; Feb. 28, 1948  
**EDUCATION** — Bachelor's and master's degrees, Xavier University  
**EXPERIENCE** — Member, Cincinnati City Council, 1979-1989; official at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1989-92; state treasurer, 1995-1998; secretary of state, 1999-2006  
**FAMILY** — Wife, Rosa, three children

## THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

		2		6	9		
	5			4	6	2	
		9		2			
9	3	4		8	7	6	
5		8		6			3
	2	6			5	8	9
	4		6	5		9	
		3	4	9			2
			2	7	1	4	

## SUDOKU

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved. Just use logic to solve.

9	8	7	1	2	5	6	8
2	5	1	6	8	7	9	4
4	6	8	5	9	1	7	2
6	8	5	9	1	7	2	4
8	7	2	9	6	8	1	5
1	9	4	8	2	5	7	6
5	2	1	7	8	6	9	3
8	2	9	7	6	5	4	1
7	1	6	9	5	4	2	8

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## Strickland signs transportation budget

By Matt Leingang  
The Associated Press



**Ted Strickland**  
Ohio Governor signed a new two-year budget

COLUMBUS — Gov. Ted Strickland on Saturday signed the state's two-year, \$7.8 billion transportation budget but vetoed a provision on charter school busing that traditional public schools said would make them lose too much money.

The transportation budget also imposes tougher regulations on school bus drivers over objections by the state's largest school employees union.

It's the first piece of legislation Strickland has agreed to sign since the Democrat took office in January. The bill, which provides funding for highway and road projects for the next two years beginning in July, unanimously passed the Republican-controlled Legislature on Wednesday.

Strickland, who has the power to cut certain provisions in spending bills without vetoing entire measures, took out the provision that allows charter schools to create their own transportation systems.

Charter schools are privately run schools that receive public money.

State law now requires that charters use the transportation system of the traditional school district in which they're located, unless they can get an agreement to opt out. Just like the public money that follows the students, the state transportation dollars would then follow them to the charters.

"I am concerned that there was not sufficient debate about the impact or costs of this provision to our school districts," Strickland said in his veto message. "Several of

Ohio's school districts have expressed concern that this item could divert significant funds from their budgets."

Karen Tabor, spokeswoman for Republican House Speaker Jon Husted, said Friday that Husted is disappointed over Strickland's line-item veto but looks forward to working with the governor on finding ways to improve transportation for charter school students.

The transportation budget, for the financial year starting July 1, had to be signed by Saturday so that it would be enacted in time for bonds to be let, Strickland spokesman Keith Dailey said Saturday. Strickland signed the bill at the governor's residence.

Strickland has called Ohio's implementation of the charter school movement a dismal failure. In his proposed two-year, \$53 billion general budget, released earlier this month, he calls for a moratorium on expanding charter schools and a ban on allowing for-profit companies to run them.

The governor agreed with another change lawmakers made to his transportation proposal, toughening regulations on bus drivers.

The Ohio Education Association, the state's largest school employees' union, and other education groups had opposed the stepped-up regulations, saying they are too narrow and arbitrary and should be open to more debate.

## Coach's departure sparks push for gay athlete acceptance

By Joe Milicia  
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The sudden resignation of LSU coach Pokey Chatman just weeks before the Final Four came at an inopportune time not only for the Lady Tigers, but for women's basketball.

Not only has it lingered over the NCAA tournament, but it's bringing attention to an uncomfortable issue, one rarely discussed outside the most private settings.

Thirty-five years after Title IX helped even the playing field for women's sports, the athletic world still lags behind when it comes to accepting gay athletes and coaches.

"Sports is going to be the last place when it comes to being gay. Because it's all about [being] macho," tennis great Billie Jean King said Friday.

"That's why we stay in the closet, because look what happens."

The Women's Sports Foundation is working to promote acceptance of gay athletes through the It Takes a Team! initiative, which seeks to educate coaches, players and parents about homophobia in sports.

"Usually, it takes three generations to complete social change," said Donna Lopiano, chief executive of the Women's Sports Foundation since 1992. "We're 35 years into a 60-year uphill climb."

**"Sports is going to be the last place when it comes to being gay. Because it's all about [being] macho."**

Billie Jean King | Tennis Player

When Chatman stepped down earlier this month amid allegations of improper conduct with one or more former players, some in women's basketball viewed it as a major setback.

"It hasn't helped," said acting LSU coach Bob Starkey, who has led the team to its fourth straight Final Four. "But I think our game has overcome stereotypes and a lot of obstacles, so I think it will get through this fairly quick. There are just too many good things in our sport for something like this to set it back."

Chatman's departure was followed by Penn State coach Rene Portland's resignation. She ended a 27-year tenure that included allegations she discriminated against lesbian players, including one player who sued saying she was forced from the program.

Those involved in the sport wish the focus were on rebounds and 3-pointers — not athletes' sexual orientation.

"It's a longtime stereotype in the women's game, this whole gay issue," said Anne Donovan, coach of the U.S. women's national team and WNBA's Seattle Storm. "Anytime it's been

written about, talked about or there's a coach being exposed in either way, in the pro or in the con of it, it just perpetuates that stereotype."

Lopiano looks forward to a day when sexual orientation isn't an issue.

A former director of women's athletics at Texas, Lopiano sees prejudice being maintained by some college coaches who engage in negative recruiting against women coaches who are single.

Helen J. Carroll, sports project director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said she fears there could be a backlash because of the questions raised by the Chatman resignation.

"We wouldn't want to see more negative recruiting based on sexual orientation because parents are fearful of their daughters going to a school where there might be a lesbian coach," said Carroll, who considers herself the victim of such recruiting when she coached at UNC-Asheville.

Although any sexual relationship between an athlete and a coach is unacceptable, King said there's a double standard for enforcement.



BILL FEIG | AP PHOTO

**LISTEN UP:** In a Feb. 19, 2007 file photo, Louisiana State coach Pokey Chatman shouts instructions to her players during the first half of their college basketball game with Tennessee in Baton Rouge, La.

"How many men coaches get caught with their students? ... The old boy network always protects," she said.

But change is happening. Any time an athlete — such as former NBA player John Amaechi or WNBA star Sheryl Swoopes — publicly comes out, it helps break down stereotypes, Carroll said.

"They should be able to be who they are and talk about their girlfriend or boyfriend and lead the same kind of life as a straight athlete," she said. "It's not about sex. It's about everyday life and not having to pretend to be somebody you're not."

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# Due to fatal crashes, new law puts constraints on teen drivers

COLUMBUS — Some 16-year-olds say they're annoyed that Ohio's new restrictions on teen drivers will make them stop carpooling with their friends. And some parents sigh over taking back the chauffeur's cap they thought they'd retired.

But for two southwest Ohio moms whose daughters were killed when a car in which six teenagers were horsing around slammed into a tree, the new state law couldn't come soon enough.

"There's not a moment or day that goes by ... that I don't miss her terribly," said Kim Schnelle, of Pleasant Plain, whose daughter Tasha was thrown out of the small sedan in 2002 in Clinton County. "And there's not a day that goes by that I don't picture her flying out that back window."

The new state law taking effect Friday allows a driver under 17 to have just one passenger who is not a relative. If a teen driver's parent or guardian is present, more passengers are permitted.

It also blocks drivers under 17 from driving from midnight to 6 a.m. without a parent or guardian. Drivers between 17 and 18 can't be on the road between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. The only exception would be for driving to or from work, and the drivers would need documentation from employers.

The rate of deaths and injuries for teen drivers is about 20 percent lower in other states with similar restrictions. Experts say the danger of a crash goes up

**"It may represent an inconvenience to some parents, but younger drivers need more time to learn how to drive without so many distractions."**

Gary Cates | State Representative

exponentially the more passengers are in the car.

"It may represent an inconvenience to some parents, but younger drivers need more time to learn how to drive without so many distractions," said state Rep. Gary Cates, a West Chester Republican. He wrote the law, which passed late last year, in response to several fatal crashes in southwest Ohio.

Law enforcement will not be able to pull teens over solely for having too many passengers. But drivers can be ticketed for the offense if stopped for another violation such as speeding.

Tasha Schnelle, 17, and three other teens who were riding without seat belts in the car's back seat were killed when the 16-year-old driver lost control and the car hit a tree. The driver and her boyfriend in the front passenger seat were protected by seat belts and air bags and survived, authorities said.

A witness told police before the crash that he saw one of the teens hanging out a window and heard loud music before the crash.

However, at least one Ohio police chief is worried that the new law might increase risk by putting more teen drivers on the road.

"Would you rather have three good friends inside the same car or in three separate cars?" Loveland Police Chief Dennis Rees said.

Meanwhile, schools are trying to get the word out — and worrying about already cramped parking lots overflowing — and teen drivers are getting ready to change how they get to school, games and practices.

"Some people think it's unfair," said Addie Zavatsky, 16, who attends Hartley High School in Columbus and used to take friends to volleyball games and practices. "We understand teenagers are in a lot of crashes, but there's just so many places you have to go with so many different people."

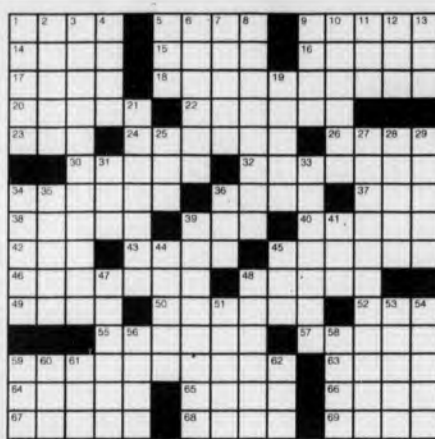
Drew Friedman, 16, of Anderson Township in suburban Cincinnati, drives his brother, Nick, and some neighbors to school — following strict rules from his mother such as keeping the cell phone and the stereo off. That car pool will end Friday.

His mother, Laura Friedman, said she doesn't expect the law to keep her sons completely safe.

"I really get upset when so many laws prevent us from making our own decisions as parents," she said.

## The Daily Crossword Fix DAVOR

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### ACROSS

- 1 Commissioned ranks in the U.S.M.C.
- 5 Mr. of soda pop
- 9 Faint
- 14 Border against
- 15 Skiers' ride
- 16 Eagle's home
- 17 Weighty book
- 18 Classic moral tale
- 20 Lighter brand
- 22 Palmer and Ferrin
- 23 Bullring shout
- 24 Big name in retail
- 26 Sound rebound
- 30 Coolidge and Wilson
- 32 Gung-ho
- 34 Arizona city
- 36 Bilbo portrayer Ian
- 37 Monastery address
- 38 Render defenseless
- 39 Late starter?
- 40 Obfuscate

- 42 File marker
- 43 Isn't wrong?
- 45 "The End of the Affair" writer
- 46 Elevated region
- 48 Inclined
- 49 "Nana" star
- 50 Coaches privately
- 52 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 55 DSL alternative
- 57 Checkups
- 59 "The Misfits" co-star
- 63 Triple Crown stat
- 64 Brief part
- 65 Cowboys or Indians
- 66 Utah ski resort
- 67 Give birth to
- 68 Boots it
- 69 Boondocks assent

- 1 Passover food
- 2 In a state of excited activity
- 3 Battery-to-battery link
- 4 Flight unit
- 5 School org.
- 6 Construction pieces
- 7 Iraqi port
- 8 New York City attraction
- 9 Out of danger
- 10 Sneaky guy
- 11 Poetic eyeball
- 12 OPEC output
- 13 Born in Brest
- 19 Video image unit
- 21 Footstool
- 25 Artist Vermeer
- 27 Parlor piece
- 28 Second-largest Great Lake
- 29 Missouri feeder
- 31 Leb. neighbor
- 33 Writer Bierce
- 34 Ballet skirts
- 35 Inappropriate
- 36 FDR, ... DDE...
- 39 Winterize
- 41 Bard's twilight
- 44 Dog-collar attachment
- 45 Pit bull's warning
- 47 Carnegie or Mellon
- 48 Tulip tree
- 51 Fleishy root
- 53 Gives off
- 54 Indian state
- 56 Sacred image: var.
- 58 Medical image
- 59 IV quantities
- 60 Indy circuit
- 61 Drs.' group
- 62 Common center?

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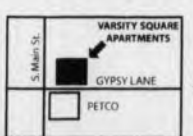
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#### The BG News Advertising Sales Position Fall '07/Spring '08

Must be personable, detail oriented, have own transportation, flexible hours. Apply in person & pick up application at 204 West Hall.

#### Toledo Area Advertising Sales Position Sell for The BG News

Must be personable, detail oriented, have own transportation, flexible hours. Apply in person & pick up application at 204 West Hall.

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Buy / Sell / Trade / Rent New Or Used DVD's / Video Games / Game Systems / And More [www.ubbo.com](http://www.ubbo.com) 419-494-1588

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Smith Apt. Rentals 419-352-8917

1457 Scott Hamilton, 4 bdrm. Need 2-4 subleasees from Aug. 07-Aug. 08. Call 419-276-8843.

2 - 3 bdrm houses. Avail. 8-15-07. \$825. Dill St.; \$900 E. Merry. 11 1/2 mon. lease. Call: 419.308.2406.

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3 bdm. house. Close to BGSU Off-street parking, W/D, AC. One-2 bdrm. apt. off street pkg. Close to BGSU. All avail. Aug. 15, 2007. 419-352-4773. 419-601-3225 (cell).

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443 N Enterprise, 3 bdrm. apt. \$550  
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112 Ridge St. 1-2 bdrm. apts. \$350  
CALL 419-308-2458

Available August 15, 2007. 3 bdrm. house, 227 E. Reed, \$1000 per mo. 1 bdrm. apts. \$300 & \$350 per mo. Year lease req. All close to BGSU. Call 419-308-2458

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Furnished room, for female, for rent with freedom of house. \$225 mo. \$100 deposit. 419-354-6117.

Highland Management 1 & 2 bedroom apart. 354-6036 May - Aug. lease [www.bghighlandmgmt.com](http://www.bghighlandmgmt.com)

Houses/Apts for 07-08 school year 12 month leases only S. Smith Contracting, LLC 419-352-8917 - 532 Marville Ave Office open 10 - 2 M - F [www.bgapartments.com](http://www.bgapartments.com) Quiet tenants preferred

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